

AMERICAN

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RED ANGUS

• CATTLE CYCLE
• REGIONAL PICTURE
• SPAYING

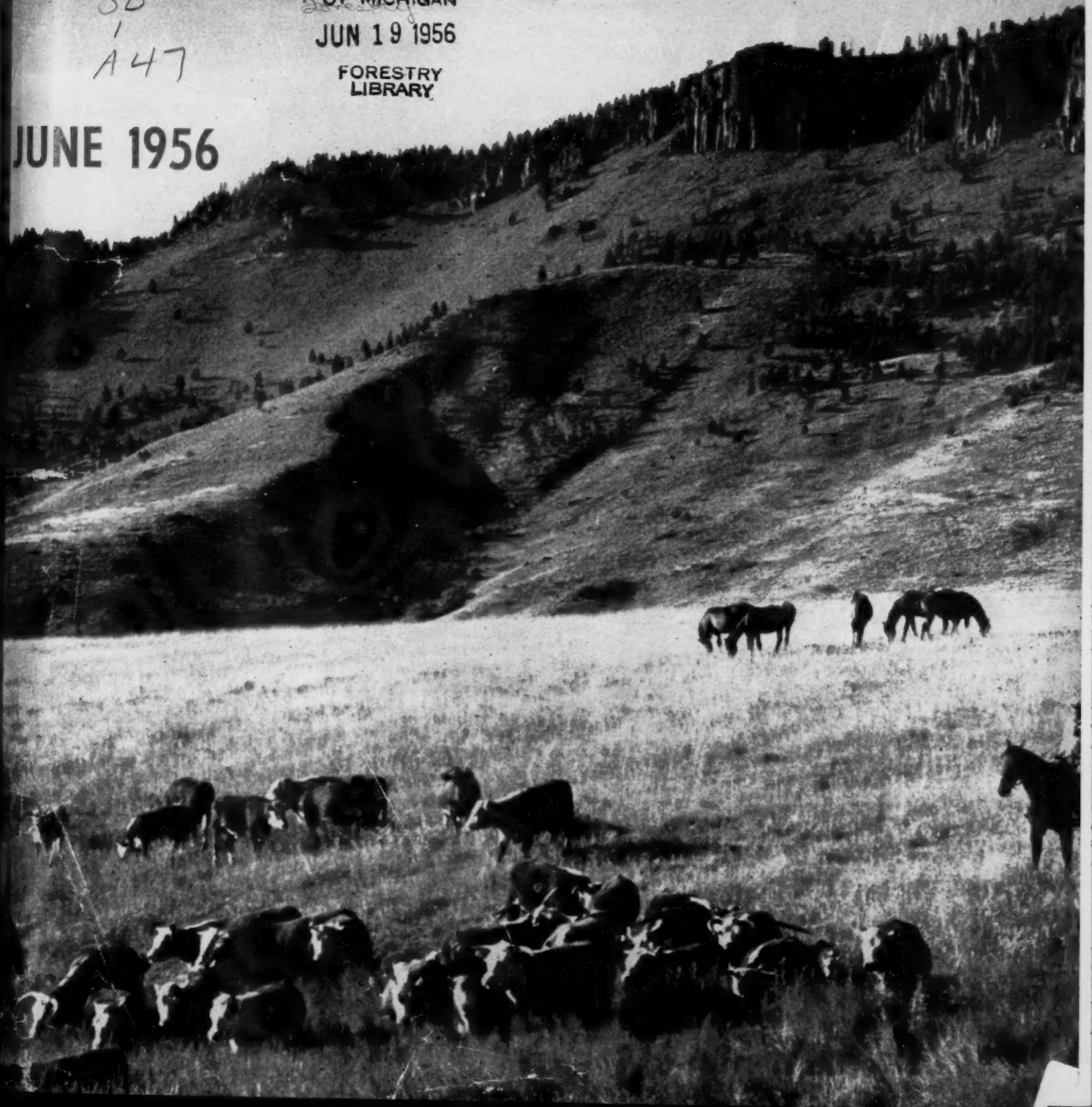
CATTLE PRODUCER

• THE CATTLEMAN'S BUSINESS MAGAZINE

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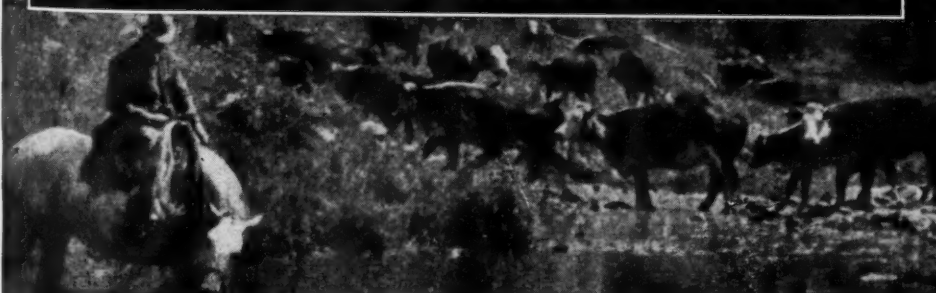


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Letters

TO THE EDITOR

FINE—Cattle in excellent condition. Good calf crop.—**Julian Terrett**, Rosebud County, Mont.

SATISFIED MEMBER—Enclosed are my dues. I should have sent them a long time ago. The American National has power and ability to get national recognition and I concur wholeheartedly in the work the National is doing.—**Dale Barber**, Washington County. S. D.

LATE SPRING—There has been some death loss in cattle in this section this winter. Spring is a little later than usual, but we have had some fair rains and grass is coming fine.—**Floyd Brehm**, Mountain County, N. D.

DRY—It is very dry here with us and our native pastures are rapidly nearing the zero mark. We are going to have to depend on irrigated pasture this summer.—**O. W. Lynam**, Pawnee County, Kan.

OUTLOOK GOOD—It has been raining here for the past two days, improving our already fine grass. The prospects for a bumper hay crop are excellent. The livestock came through our long winter in good shape, as everyone had all the hay needed.—**Amos W. Allard**, Walden, Colo.

CORRECT DATA—We are pleased to receive your magazine as it gives a very good outline of the cattle industry in your part of the country.

An item concerning the Calgary Bull Sale, in your May issue, is somewhat misleading. This event is a three-breed affair that lasts for five days. This year 841 head of bulls were sold for a total of \$408,265, making an overall average of \$485.45; 599 Hereford bulls sold averaged \$478.11. Two Hereford bulls sold at \$5,000 each; one at \$2,825; one at \$2,600. The Hereford sale this year lasted for three days.

In the other breeds, 136 Shorthorns averaged \$498.93, and 106 Aberdeen-Angus averaged \$509.66. These bulls were two-year-olds.—**D. H. Owen**, Livestock Fieldman, Canadian Dept. of Agriculture.

(Editor's Note: We have had another note about this from Chas. E. Goode, secretary of the Alberta Live Stock Associations, Calgary; Mr. Goode adds to the above information the fact that 90 of the bulls went to U. S. buyers.)

IMPORTANCE OF RESEARCH—The industrialization of an industry increases production, and unless supported by research to develop new markets and uses, surplus accumulates. Industrialization of agriculture since World War II increased production with

accumulated surpluses because of lack of research to develop new markets and uses. A survey by the National Cotton Council shows annual research spending of \$14 million for cotton fibers, \$60 million for synthetic fibers with \$12 million in advertising. Is there any wonder synthetics are taking the cotton markets? The defense department spends \$1.4 billion annually for research and development. Health has upped research spending from \$70 million in 1945 to \$240 million in 1956. If you believe research would develop new markets and uses, express your views to your senators on SB 3503, a "proposed \$100 million research program to double demand for farm products through discovery of new industrial uses and utilization of processes already known."—**A. Kiefer Mayer**, Tucson, Ariz.

(continued on page 27)

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801 EAST 17TH AVE., DENVER 18, COLO.

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DAVID O. APPLETON.....Editor
RADFORD HALL.....Business Manager

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The Lookout

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Market supplies of heavy fed cattle and of hogs, large throughout the fall and winter, have turned downward. Reduction is partly seasonal; however, with fewer cattle reported on feed Apr. 1 and fewer sows farrowing spring pigs, over-all level of livestock marketings in coming months will be lower than in recent winter season—a significant let-up from past expansion, though not a major reversal of trend. Hog production will remain smaller than in past year, but cattle production will continue large, as cow numbers are being fully maintained.

Cattle on feed in 14 states on Apr. 1 were 8 per cent fewer than in April 1955, with about the same number of heavier cattle as last year but fewer light ones on feed. Thus, marketings of fed cattle will likely decrease in months ahead. Unless great many young stock are put on feed soon, supply of fed cattle for slaughter in late summer and early fall could be considerably below large supplies of last year.

Prices of fed cattle have strengthened and may continue gradually upward, regaining last year's level sometime in late summer or fall. Prices of grass cattle will likely decrease seasonally and, reflecting unsatisfactory feeding profits last winter, may remain for some time below prices of a year earlier.

Meat production in commercial establishments, above year-earlier estimates since last July, in January-March was up 11 per cent from year before. Margin over a year earlier will narrow this summer, and by October-December meat production may be around 2 per cent below same months of 1955.

The total output for 1956 is forecast at 3 per cent above 1955, and consumption per person at 162½ pounds, as against 161 in 1955. Beef consumption per capita for 1956 is estimated at 82.5 pounds; it was 80.9 pounds in 1955.

Prices of most feeds have advanced the past few weeks, with corn and many of the other feeds reaching the highest level so far this season. With supplies of free corn limited, corn prices probably will continue firm during the next two or three months.

Prices of oats and barley probably will decline seasonally later this spring and summer, but the drop may be less than usual since current prices are not much above 1956 supports. Prices of most by-product feeds have advanced along with grain prices, and many of these feeds in early May were near or above levels at same time last year.

Economic activity thus far in the second quarter has held close to levels of the first quarter. Total output and employment have changed little except for seasonal fluctuations. The number of jobless remains relatively small—3.9 per cent of the civilian labor force in April.

Consumer income has advanced steadily and will probably continue high in coming months. Inventory accumulation slowed somewhat in April and further easing may occur if auto output is reduced. With the economy operating at near capacity levels, wholesale prices of many products continue to rise.

Farm product prices in general have continued to rise in recent months following the seasonal peak in marketings. The index of prices received by farmers in mid-April averaged 4 per cent higher than in mid-December. Average prices of both crops and livestock products advanced, but the largest gain was in prices of meat animals.

Prices paid by farmers for production and family living items have also moved up slightly in recent months.—From USDA.



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The Farm Bill

The NEW FARM BILL has some good sections in it, even though it is not likely to solve the farm problem . . . of course it wasn't expected to.

Here are some of the parts we believe are good:

Authorization for \$500 million additional to be spent by the secretary of agriculture to support markets for commodities like beef, pork, eggs.

Increase from \$300 million to \$500 million of funds which can be used to pay ocean freight costs for giving away farm surplus goods to nations that can use them—and authority to USDA to pay processing cost. We have to get rid of surpluses before farm commodities can get on a sound basis.

A soil bank plan involving \$1.2 billion for payments to farmers who contract to put their lands into the soil bank. They can let part of their land lie idle and get paid for that, or turn it into grass and not graze it, or plant to trees. These provisions may be valuable in the long run by encouraging grass agriculture and helping to show the way to proper use of land.

We can't go along the way we have, paying out farm subsidies which have only created more and more unmanageable surpluses.

* * *

IT PUZZLES YOU sometimes to see how government policies work at cross purposes, such as the subsidies that encourage surpluses that in turn make fair market prices impossible. Even our foreign policy has had the effect of building up agriculture in many countries that formerly were good customers

for our agricultural products—and we could sure use those markets now.

Some of the bad parts that were in the bill at first got stricken or changed. American National Cattlemen's Association officers in Washington, D.C., when the bill was being framed reported that the Albert amendment which would have paid ranchers for cutting numbers and not using their grass was deleted (it could have caused a flood of cattle and a break on the market, costing the industry much more than the payments involved); the Jennings amendment which might have prevented grazing on federal lands was satisfactorily amended, and the House-proposed 81 per cent feed-grain price support had been cut to 76 per cent.

Of course this was nevertheless a raise—from 70 to 76 per cent—and it adds another problem for the feeder in the way of cost production.

The new law contains a one-year freeze on parity on wheat, corn and peanuts to prevent automatic reductions scheduled for 1957. It also contains a provision freezing some of the acreage allotments at 1956 levels.

But for these exceptions the new law leaves the present flexible support program intact. That, we think, is a good thing. Flexible supports should be retained long enough to show what they can do.

A flexible program which eventually may correct our surplus problem, plus the emphasis that the soil bank puts on conservation, with its aim at protection of the land, should in the long run be of benefit.

Research Laboratory

For QUITE A WHILE cattlemen have been asking, through their various associations, for an animal disease laboratory to study some of their special problems. At New Orleans, the American National in a resolution called for a laboratory "some place in the range cattle producing area."

An appropriation request for \$19 million has been kicking around in Congress, but apparently is getting nowhere. The Senate Appropriations Committee cut out a House-approved authorization of \$10 million for a laboratory to be added to the buildings at Beltsville, Md. The committee said the Maryland site is unsatisfactory and the USDA should consult with the lawmakers in selecting another location before funds are granted.

The USDA, on the other hand, said its work is more efficient under "one roof" and explained that Beltsville can simulate almost any set of conditions to study diseases of other localities and therefore Beltsville is the logical location.

In the meantime, the industry doesn't get a laboratory—which both the committee and USDA agree is needed—and so both the industry and the consumer are paying for the delay. We hope the committee and the USDA can get together on this.

Meat Inspection

The MEAT INSPECTION appropriation finally got through the conference between House and Senate fairly close to budget requirements.

For a while the appropriation in the House was a quarter of a million dollars short of requirements for the service; the final conference figure is only \$100,000 short of what was requested.

The larger amount was supported vigorously by the USDA and producer and packer organizations, which have pointed out that federally inspected processors are increasing rapidly and more inspectors are therefore needed.

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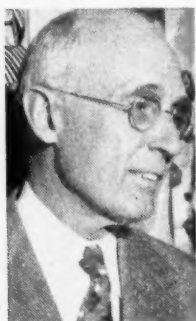
WE'RE GLAD the appropriations turned out at least as well as they did. It's a perennial problem to get money for meat inspection.

This should not be an industry expense, as some people seem to think. Actually, the inspection service's main function is to see that the public gets wholesome meat and as such it is fair that it be paid for out of public funds.

In terms of the meat we consume, the \$15,650,000 cost is infinitesimally small—only a tiny portion of a cent per pound. The public should not object to paying that.

The 'National' At Work

Albert K. Mitchell, Albert, N. M., past president of the American National Cattlemen's Association, was elected chairman of the National Live Stock Tax Committee at the annual meeting in Denver in May. He was chosen to fill the vacancy created by the death early in April of Frank S. Boice, Sonoita, Ariz., who was also a past American National president. Re-elected secretary was F. E. Mollin, Denver. Current tax work includes proposal of the "involuntary conversion" principle in drouth sales. A bill now out of conference would make it apply to breeding animals, not usual culling but to sales in excess of normal. Ranchers would have to prove they sold down because of drouth, and proceeds of sale would have to be applied to purchase of similar kind of animals in a year, or they may apply for extension of time.



Albert Mitchell

The mailing list of Cow Business, the American National's bimonthly newsletter, is getting a periodic check for accuracy. If you are getting duplicate mailings or are not receiving it, please notify Cow Business, 801 East 17th Ave., Denver 18, Colo. Every member of the American National is entitled to receive Cow Business.

Traffic Manager Chas. E. Blaine has made application for a reduction in westbound rates on livestock from the Midwest to the Pacific Coast to correspond with reductions in fresh meat. A resolution adopted by the American National at New Orleans asked that if reductions are made on fresh meat, then similar cuts should be made on livestock rates so that the historic relationship between the two rates can be retained.

In 1948 a provision was attached to the appropriations bill to require the defense department to buy its meat supplies in the United States. This provision, originally inserted at the request of the American National, has been continued each year since that time. In the present appropriations bill it has again had approval of the House Appropriations Committee.

In mid-May officers of the American National got assurance from Secretary of Agriculture of a standby beef buying plan. President Don C. Collins, Executive Secretary Rad Hall and Legislative Committee Member Robert Lister of Oregon were in Washington as the farm bill was shaping up, to pro-

test (1) inclusion of the Jennings amendment which might have prevented grazing on federal lands, (2) high mandatory supports on feed grains, and (3) a proposal designed to cut cattle numbers but which might have meant dumping and consequent market breaks. (See editorial, Page 7, on farm bill.)

A number of American National committee meetings are scheduled in July, all in Denver, at the Shirley-Savoy Hotel: Research Committee, July 9; Feeder Committee, July 10; Beef Grading Committee, July 11-12; General Council, July 13.

Next convention of the American National will be in Phoenix Jan. 7-9. On Jan. 6 there will be an executive committee meeting; a tour is planned for Jan. 10. Executive Rad Hall was in Phoenix in late May to plan for this coming 60th annual meeting.

President Don C. Collins will be a speaker at the annual convention of the American National Livestock Auction Association in Denver in mid-June. He's slated for speeches at the state cattlemen's meetings in North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska. . . . Jack Milburn, first vice-president, will represent the cattle industry at a celebration in Washington, D. C., for the golden anniversary of federal meat inspection June 6. . . . Executive Secretary Rad Hall was a speaker before the Gunnison County (Colorado) cattlemen; also at the Wyoming meeting in Rawlins. . . . Information Director Lyle Liggett is scheduled as a panelist at the auction association meeting.



Here is the top poster among 21,839 entered from 1,249 high schools over the country in the 1956 national meat poster contest for high school students. The contest was an educational project sponsored by the National Live Stock and Meat Board. The winning poster, submitted by Glenn Neal Falk of Windber High School, Windber, Pa., was built around the theme, "Meat Makes Muscle to Turn Industry's Wheels."

The Public . . . And You

BY LYLE LIGGETT

PUBLIC RELATIONS FOR THE cattle business got top attention during the recent National Hereford Congress at Tucson.

Appearing on a special panel were two public relations specialists, the able Don McCarthy of the American Hereford Association and myself, and Nelson Crow, the noted publisher of "Western Livestock Journal" and other ranch and farm magazines.

While approaching the subject from different angles, we agreed:

1. Good public relations is as essential to the cattle industry as it is to other businesses.

2. An individual can profit within the industry in relationship to how well, how enthusiastically and how confidently he practices personal public relations.

3. Advertising, publicity and promotion are mere tools of public relations—which is the sum total of individual actions to provide quality products, honest service and sincere interest in the problems of the many "sub-publics" with whom every cowman must deal.

4. Reputations for honesty, integrity, community and industry service, and quality cannot be built through advertising or publicity—but those "tools" can profitably be used by breeder and commercial cattleman alike to emphasize his efforts in providing "customer satisfaction."

5. The consumer, the retailer, the packer or the feeder are not paying the cattleman just to enjoy the life of a rancher—they buy beef and leather only because they want it or can use it profitably in their own businesses. Therefore the rancher must provide products which satisfy the customer—and he must be concerned about how well they satisfy so that he can meet changing conditions.

The panel also agreed that commercial cattlemen can use advertising and publicity to improve his business—just as does the purebred operator. It suggested that all ranchers put up ranch-identifying signs and use direction information in advertising as another way of better serving prospective customers and of helping to promote beef.

Beef promotion was considered an excellent example of industry public relations because the appeal was to the consumer's desire to achieve better health and enjoyment—not because beef "had" to be sold to keep ranchers in business.

It was also suggested that purebred operators take a more active part in local, state and national cattle industry associations and activities. Thus they would they be offering greater proof of their interest in the welfare of their customers, and offer concrete help.

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Where Is The Cattle Cycle Headed?

By Harold F. Breimyer



THE CYCLE IN NUMBERS OF CATTLE on farms has been one of the most reliable patterns in agriculture. Since 1880 cattle inventories have gone up six times. After expansions varying from six to eight years they have turned downward without fail. The current cycle started its upward course in 1949. In January 1956 it made its seventh increase, as the sizable expansion in slaughter to that date was not sufficient to stop it.

Its future course is a question of importance because production of cattle is a long-range, high-investment enterprise. To the producer especially, the long-run outlook is of vital significance.

The cycle does not have to turn downward on schedule. Some authorities have suggested that this one will continue upward until drouth or an ex-

treme price break forces liquidation of herds. If both come at one time, as they did in 1934, the cyclical turn could be sudden and the consequences drastic.

Evolution of a Typical Cycle

Briefly, a typical cycle begins with an increased demand for breeding stock to expand herds. Prices of breeding stock soar, and the producing (cow-and-calf) enterprise becomes especially profitable. As cows, heifers and calves are held back, only steers are marketed in large numbers for slaughter. Later, when calves from enlarged breeding herds reach maturity, total slaughter increases. Prices break, often severely. Declines are sharpest for breeding stock, and least for high grade fed cattle. The producing enterprise becomes relatively unprofitable, more cows are slaughtered and a scramble

ensues to expand the feeding business. Both cow and calf slaughter are larger, cow herds are reduced, and the calf crop becomes smaller. Ultimately total slaughter decreases and prices turn upward, initiating a new cycle.

The present cycle has gone through many of these stages. Prices are now less than half their 1951 high. Slaughter of calves has risen 45 per cent and of cows, 66 per cent. The breeding business has lost its advantage and feeding has expanded.

Hasn't Turned

Yet, the cycle has not turned downward. Reasons include the unprecedented strength of consumer demand for beef, generally declining prices of feed, less critical financial position of producers in this than previous cycles, and improvements in efficiency which have resulted in amazingly large calf crops relative to the size of the national cow herd. This last factor is especially important. Without the technological progress in increasing calving rates, and assuming cow herds as of the same size as they actually have been, the present cycle would now be on a decline. For instance, if the calf crop had borne in 1955 the same ratio to the January inventory of cows as it did in 1945, last year's slaughter would have reduced the inventory of all cattle 3.4 million head instead of allowing an increase of almost one million.

If the development of the cycle to date has not been sufficient to stop the increase, will it do so in the future?

Yes, it will. But it is not at all clear whether the downturn will come soon. It could be next January. Another possibility is that slaughter rates and prices will fluctuate for some time before a peak is passed. Also, apart from other considerations, an extremely severe drouth would definitely force a reduction.

Young Cattle Did It

The small increase in total cattle in-

Cattle on farms, number slaughtered, beef supply, 1949-55, forecast for 1956 and projections 1957-60¹

Year	Number of cattle and calves on farms January 1	Number slaughtered			Dressed weight per head of cattle slaughtered	Beef produced	Beef consumed per person
		Cattle	Calves	Cattle and calves			
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	Pounds	Million Pounds	pounds
1949	76,830	18,765	11,398	30,163	503	9,439	63.1
1950	77,963	18,614	10,501	29,115	514	9,534	62.6
1951	82,083	17,084	8,902	25,986	519	8,837	55.3
1952	88,072	18,625	9,388	28,013	520	9,650	61.4
1953	94,241	24,465	12,200	36,665	508	12,407	76.5
1954	95,679	25,889	13,270	39,159	502	12,963	79.0
1955	96,592	26,583	12,866	39,449	512	13,568	80.9
Forecast for 1956 ²	97,465	27,500	13,000	40,500	511	14,050	82.5
Projections of the cattle cycle ³							
1957	97,000	27,250	13,100	40,350	505	13,750	79.0
1958	96,700	27,200	13,100	40,300	505	13,750	77.8
1959	96,400	27,200	13,100	40,300	508	13,850	77.3
1960	96,000						

¹1950-55 revised on the basis of the 1950 Census of Agriculture. ²Number on farms is preliminary estimate; all other data are forecasts. ³Projections under favorable conditions. Very severe drouth or drop in demand for beef would step up slaughter and speed the reduction in inventory. ⁴Calculated at a 1956 calf crop 87 per cent of the number of cows and two-year-old heifers on farms, the same as in 1954. If it should be 88 per cent, the same as in 1955, the projected inventory would be 97,500,000.

ventory during 1955 was a short-term build-up in young slaughter cattle. While total numbers were up 873,000, steer and beef calf numbers advanced 1,521,000. Young stock were retained when (1) ranges improved following June rains; (2) renewed strength in cattle prices rebuilt confidence; (3) feeders found themselves facing a declining market late in the year, and held more steers past Dec. 31 than they had intended.

In 1956 this temporary increase in young cattle will almost surely be ended. More young stock will go to slaughter, many directly off grass. Moreover, the trend is toward slaughtering fed cattle at younger age in response to increasing price discounts on older, heavier fed steers. Furthermore, feeders are discovering that steers fed stilbestrol tend to become too heavy before attaining full finish; many will choose in the future to start with lighter and younger feeders. So the past year's buildup in young stock will be absorbed and not repeated.

Longer trends in cattle are governed largely by the changing size of the cow herd, and here no retrenchment is yet clearly in sight. As a result of last year's sizable slaughter of cows and heifers, the number of cows on farms was unchanged this January from a year before. The number of heifers was reduced 4 per cent. Of itself the fewer replacement stock would point to a possible small decrease in cow numbers during 1956. But in recent months the rate of cow slaughter has slowed. Since December, the number of cows slaughtered under inspection has been less than in the corresponding months of the previous year. This is too short a period to be fully indicative, but the possibility exists that cow numbers will not be reduced during 1956 unless producers decide to sell at a faster pace than recently.

Nearly Stabilized

The cycle is so nearly stabilized that small fluctuations in the size of the calf crop become the governing influence. A projection of cattle inventories and slaughter, made from the best evidence and judgment available, is given in the table. The data show very little change in inventories the next few years. If the calf crop should decline slightly, a small reduction in inventories at the close of 1956 could be expected. An unchanged calf crop would likely lead to almost unchanged inventories. An advance indication of the size of the calf crop will become available by late summer, when a mid-year calf crop report will be released.

Data in the table show that even with essentially stable numbers of cattle the supply of beef for consumption per person might be expected to ease downward. The consuming population will increase, while average slaughter weights will be reduced from their very high averages of the last six or eight months.

THE REGIONAL PICTURE

Since January 1949 the number of cattle on farms has increased 21 million head. This cyclical expansion has been almost entirely in beef cattle, as dairy cattle inventories have been nearly stable. Expansion has been most rapid in the South and Southeast where the beef cow has displaced cotton and other crops.

Rate of growth of beef cow numbers was faster in the East. In five of the six eastern type-of-farming regions, numbers more than doubled between 1949 and 1956. In the remaining region, the Central Corn Belt, the increase was 89 per cent. For the Northeast as a whole—from Missouri to Maine—the expansion in beef cows was 94 per cent. For the Southeast it was even more—128 per cent.

In the West—defined here as the Plains, mountain and Pacific states—the growth was slower. Ranging between 30 and 61 per cent for the four type-of-farming regions, it averaged 45 per cent in the Plains and 36 per cent in the combined mountain and Pacific areas.

Plains Area Dominant

But despite its slower rate of growth, the West contributed half the total 1949-56 increase in beef cow numbers and still had, on Jan. 1, 1956, almost two-thirds of the U. S. numbers. The

Plains is still dominant. Even though drought recurred in the southern part the Plains contributed 32 per cent of the seven-year increase in beef cows and still has 39 per cent of the national total. That is, two of every five beef cows in the U. S. are in the six states from North Dakota to Texas. The mountain and Pacific States have dropped to 24 per cent of all beef cows.

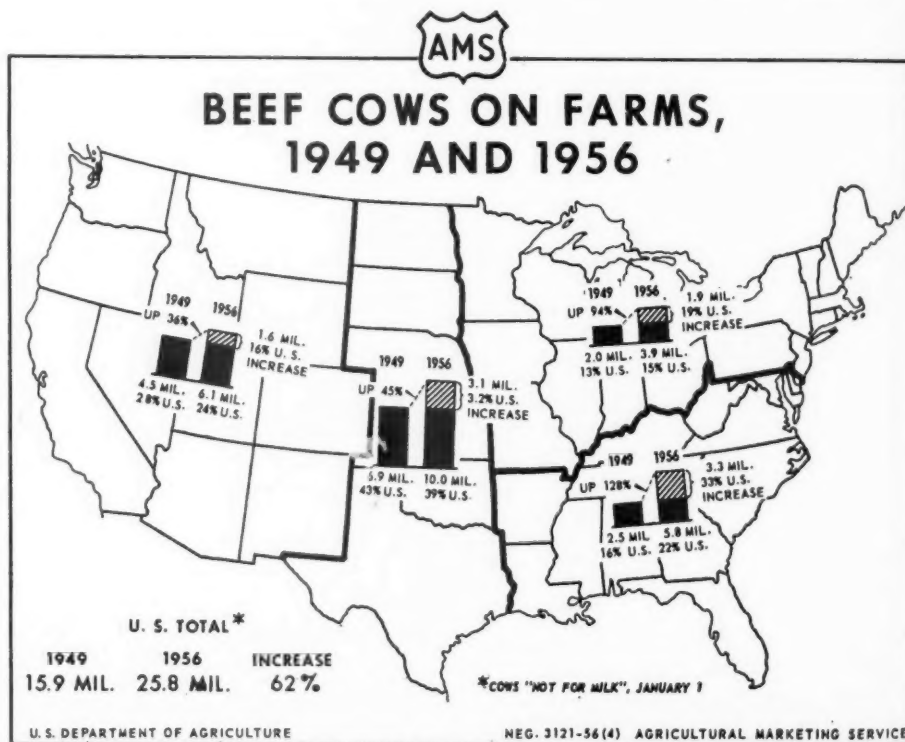
About 33 per cent of the 1945-56 expansion in beef cows was in the Southeast, which lifted its portion of the total from 16 to 22 per cent.

For all cows—beef and milk combined—and all cattle and calves the East holds a higher position, since milk cows are highly concentrated in the states from Minnesota to New England. The Northeast now has 36 per cent of all cattle. The Plains, however, have a sizable 27 per cent. The Southeast has only 19 per cent, and the mountain and Pacific States, 18 per cent.

East Tops in Milk Cattle

In summary, the West has lost ground to the East in beef cattle but retains dominance. The East remains on top in milk cattle. But milk cattle numbers have not increased, their stability doing much to make the eastern expansion in beef cattle possible. Also, stable num-

(Concluded on Page 15)



From 1949 to 1956 beef cow numbers in the United States increased 62 per cent. Rate of growth was fastest in eastern regions, which more than doubled their numbers, and slowest in the West—the Plains, mountain, and Pacific states. However, of the total increase of near 10 million head, East and West contributed about equally.

The West is still the leading beef cattle region. On Jan. 1, 1956 it had 63 per cent of the nation's total beef cows, though this is a reduction from 71 per cent in 1949. The Southeast now has 22 per cent of all beef cows, up from 16 per cent in 1949.

Because numbers of milk cattle remained nearly stable, total cattle numbers increased more uniformly by regions and were not redistributed very much.

THE SPAYING QUESTION

ON THE SUBJECT OF SPAYING heifers, we quoted in our May issue a paragraph from the American National's Cow Business that "several colleges have run tests on spayed vs. open heifers and conclude that a spayed heifer will not gain as fast as an open heifer."

Several letters from readers take exception to this statement. Therefore the Producer has rounded up information and opinions on the subject which we believe will be of value to our readers.

From the Rangeman

G. W. Evans, Magdalena, N. M.—"I have been encouraging spaying and have met with some success. The most discouraging thing is your statement. I wonder how extensive your research was to justify such a broad statement. I know there is some controversy regarding spaying, but one distinct advantage is that spayed heifers will no longer produce calves and the breeder can definitely improve the quality of his herd by spaying undesirable heifers."

W. G. Buchanan, Joseph, Ore.—"If the muscles are parted instead of cut, there is no scar left except on the hide. We have slaughtered for five years now and I have yet to see any scar tissue even after the aging process has been completed. My experience is that if heifers are spayed as yearlings, then run on grass, they will gain equally as good or a little better than open heifers. Most of the experiments made by experiment stations have been made on heifers that were spayed and then immediately put on the feedlot. Morrison tests indicate a larger gain for the spayed heifers. My findings are that steers make the fastest and most economical gain, with bred heifers second, then spayed heifers, and open."

A. R. Babcock, cattleman, Moore, Ida.—"Spaying heifers is not very popular in southern Idaho. It seems to be the opinion of several feeders that the spayed heifers did not gain as fast in the feed yard as the heifers that were not spayed. Spaying apparently does not change the quality of the beef; therefore, the only advantage would be that you could run the heifers in common with other cattle, and here again the cost of spaying might offset the cost of segregating the stock that you would want to feed or sell as feeders."

Feeder Comment

W. D. Farr, feeder, Greeley, Colo.—"We have not fed large numbers of spayed heifers but have tried different bunches on several occasions. We have always been disappointed in the gains compared to open heifers. They have a distinct tendency to develop with a lot of waste, gobby fat which is undesirable on today's market. Usually, spayed heifers are relatively heavy when you

buy them as feeders. The reason, of course, is that when a rancher goes to the trouble and expense of spaying he must keep his heifers to a little older age and heavier weight in order to pay the expense. Cattle feeders are finding that fat heifers weighing over 950 pounds are in the same category as steers over 1,150 pounds. They are undesirable for the retail trade and consequently have to be sold at a price discount. Therefore, to sum it up, we personally would not buy spayed heifers for our feedlot unless at substantial discounts under open heifers."

From a Processor

Beef Department of a Packer—"It is our opinion that spayed heifers are comparable to open heifers, providing they are equal in quality to start with, are fed on the same feeding program and marketed at a comparable weight. For all practical purposes, if the spaying operation is properly done, no damage to the hide or meat results. It would appear to me that spaying would be entirely up to the cow and calf operator. It is my understanding that some feeders prefer to have open heifers because they feel the animal gains more efficiently. On the other hand, I have heard feeders say that spayed heifers gain more efficiently than open."

From Textbooks

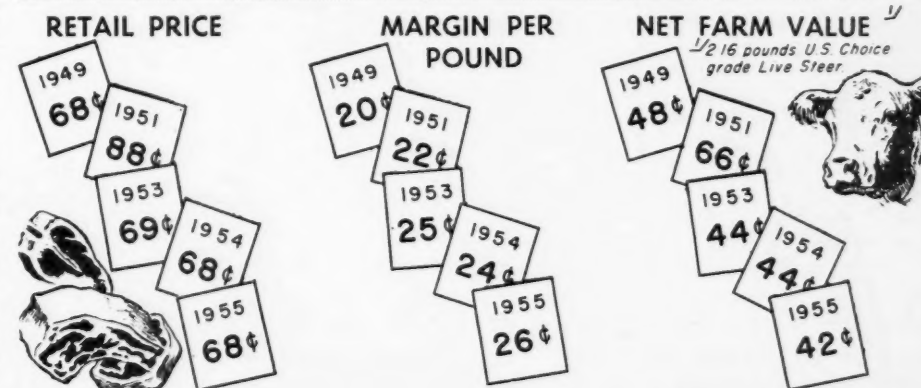
M. E. Enslinger's book, "Animal Science"—"Spayed heifers may make slightly better gains than open heifers, but the difference is usually not suf-

ficient to overcome the loss resulting from the operation. Spaying, therefore, is profitable only if the selling price is sufficiently higher to warrant the cost of the operation and the risk involved."

Henry and Morrison in "Feeds and Feeding"—"In experiments by Wilson and Curtiss at the Iowa Station, steers were fattened in comparison with both open and spayed heifers. All lots yielded practically the same amount of dressed carcass, and the heifers yielded about 1 per cent more in the high-priced cuts of meat. However, the steers brought \$1 per cwt. more in the first trial and \$.25 per cwt. more in the second trial than the heifers. But little, if any, benefit was derived from spaying heifers. As a rule, because of the setback caused by the operation of spaying, open heifers make better gains than spayed heifers, if they are fed apart from steers. Therefore, spaying is justified only when heifers must be fed with steers. Then, to keep the animals more quiet in the feedlot, spaying may be profitable."

"Beef Cattle," by Roscoe R. Snapp—"One of the principal objections to feeding heifers is the disturbance caused by their coming in heat. When a carload or more of heifers are fed together hardly a day passes without one or more animals being thus affected, so that the herd is almost constantly in a state of excitement and unrest. Obviously such conditions are not conducive to rapid and economical gains."

"In order to avoid the disturbance caused by in-heat heifers, spaying is sometimes resorted to. That more heif-



The difference between what the farmer gets for U. S. Choice beef and what the consumer pays has varied widely in the years 1949-55, and the spread has gradually widened to about 5 cents a retail pound more in 1955 than 1949.

Producers got about 62 per cent of the consumer's dollar spent for beef in 1955, marketing agencies the remainder. They got 65 per cent in 1954; 63 in 1953.

During the period, both farm and retail prices have moved up and down a lot. The cost of marketing (labor,

rent, supplies, transportation and equipment) tends to remain rather constant over short periods, even though prices of livestock and meat change considerably. In short-run situations such costs are not closely related to livestock and meat prices.

The marketing margin (or price spread) represents the return to marketing agencies for the services required in marketing live animals from farm to packing plant, slaughtering, processing, wholesaling and retailing the beef.

ers are not spayed is due largely to the difficulty of the operation and the failure of the market to pay sufficient premium for such heifers to cover the risk involved. The principal advantages to be derived from spaying are a more tranquil disposition of the animals during the feeding period and a somewhat higher price for them when they are marketed."

* * *

Dr. W. H. Beckenhauer, Colorado A&M veterinary department—Spaying of course permits the rangeman to run his heifers with the bulls, thereby saving fencing costs, and for the feeder it eliminates the problem of "bulling." Here at the college we do the operation for 50 cents a head, holding the animal off feed 2 days and then operating. Charges in the field are of course higher.

Russell Thorp, former Wyoming cattleman, now fieldman for the American National—From the rangeman's point of view, it pays to spay the tail end of the heifers, which improves the herd; spaying contributes just that much to reducing cattle numbers; spayed heifers fatten up rapidly under proper range conditions.

* * *

In Bulletin 562, December 1955, of the Washington Agricultural Experiment Station, which was printed from information obtained from a questionnaire study launched by the research committee of the American National Cattlemen's Association with the cooperation of the State College of Washington, we read that—

"(a) The operation is more complicated and difficult (than castrating) requiring a very experienced man; (b) spaying is attended with more danger than castration; (c) it eliminates the heifers for possible replacement purposes or sale as breeding stock; and (d) experiments and practical operations with spayed heifers have failed to indicate decisive advantages in rapidity and economy of gains and selling price. On the other hand, spaying does prevent the possibility of heifers becoming pregnant and eliminates the necessity of separating heifers from bulls or steers.

"Nine per cent of the cattlemen reported that they spayed heifers, that they spayed an average of 67.5 heifers each (average size of herd per questionnaire returned was 316 head), and that they spayed at an average of 8.9 months of age. . . .

"Also, it was reported that 80.5 per cent of the owners (who spayed) did their own spaying, while 19.5 per cent had the work done by the veterinarian."

A table in the booklet shows that of the cattlemen following the practice, about 16 per cent spayed between 11 and 30 per cent of their available heifers; 63 per cent spayed over 90 per cent of their heifers.

The Market Picture

THE PRICE IMPROVEMENT IN FAT cattle which developed in April apparently about ran its course in early May. There was a general tendency toward a contracted price spread, wherein shortfed and lightweight steers held up well, while choice to prime steers actually had to sell \$1 to \$2 lower. At the same time, the demand for lightweight carcasses was reflected in a heifer market which gained 50 cents to \$1, particularly on weights under 900 pounds.

The coming of warmer weather at major beef trading centers apparently had an adverse effect upon the demand for choice to prime heavy steers and at the same time the supply of such heavy steers, scaling from 1,250 pounds upward, seemed to build up again after having shown some signs of disappearing a month ago.

Trend to Lighter Beef

This trend toward lighter weight beef carcasses in the dressed trade getting the preference, seems to become more pronounced from year to year. If such trend continues to gain momentum, it seems likely that many feeders will find it necessary to shift from a yearling and two-year-old feeding operation to a calf feeding set-up, since many of the older steers cannot reach the desired finish without also exceeding the finished weights in popular demand.

While indications of cattle numbers on feed as of April 1 reflected some optimism, actual marketings up until early May were disappointingly large. At least a part of this continued liberal marketing was laid to continued increases in the cost of grain and the resultant marketing by feeders at an earlier date than originally anticipated.

Some Encouragement

There was some encouragement to be found in the pattern of marketing and cattle slaughter by mid-May. Although inspected slaughter through the first four months was up 8 per cent over last year, by mid-May cattle kill dropped 5 per cent under a year ago with beef tonnage 2 per cent less than last year.

At the same time, for the first time this year hog slaughter was down to only 5 per cent over last year and actual pork tonnage was practically even with a year ago, due to lighter weights being marketed.

If such a pattern can continue for several weeks, the supply side of the picture definitely will be in favorable position.

Movement of stocker and feeder cattle into the Corn Belt states during April was down 25 per cent compared to a year ago, and for the first four months of 1956 shipment was down some 11 per cent. This also should put the supply side in a favorable position for the late summer and fall market.

Continued dry weather over the southern plains had a bearish effect upon trade in lightweight stocker cattle; prices worked 50 cents or more lower. On the other hand, demand was fairly reliable for fleshy short-term steers and heifers at very little decline, the latter class of cattle being rather hard to locate in large numbers.

Movement of cows increased considerably in the southern Plains also and prices broke 50 cents to \$1, this being a typical seasonal development, except that dry weather apparently forced the movement about a month earlier than normal.

Price Roundup

Price-wise, choice fed steers were selling over the nation in a spread of \$19 to \$20.50, with a small volume of high choice and prime bringing \$21 to \$22.50, a few prime at Chicago occasionally getting \$23.50 to \$24. Good grade shortfed and plain quality steers brought \$16 and \$18.50, some commercial dairybreds downward to \$14. Choice fed heifers moved quite readily in all areas at \$19 to \$19.75, a limited volume of high choice and prime making \$20 to \$21.50. Good shortfed heifers brought \$16 to \$18.50.

Beef cows of utility grade sold from \$11.50 to \$12.50 at many markets, but in the southern Plains prices were about \$1 less. Canners and cutters sold at \$9 to \$11 but a spread of \$7 to \$10 was taking thin cows in the southern Plains.

Good and choice stocker and feeder steers in limited volume sold at \$16 to \$18.50, some on the short yearling order of high quality upward to \$20 in a limited way. Good and choice heifers were selling relatively close to steers in a price spread of \$16 to \$17.50, and there were places where half-fat heifers scaling from 675 to 750 pounds brought \$18 to \$18.25 for a short-term feed.

Few Fall Contracts

Only a scattering of fall contracts was reported and the volume hardly represented a trend. However, good and choice yearling steers up to 700 pounds or a little better were reported under contract for fall delivery at \$16 to \$17. One string of high quality Montana two-year-old steers was contracted for fall delivery at \$15, with a small sort-out at \$13. Not much in the way of heifer contracts was uncovered, some yearling heifers out of a string of \$16 steers reported at \$14.

The rather wide spread of recent years between yearling heifers and yearling steers in the fall has had a tendency at times to narrow somewhat, and the trend in recent years toward lighter weight carcasses of beef would indicate that this wide spread has possibilities of narrowing, since quite often the finished cattle market in the spring has reflected a rather narrow price spread. Very few stock calves were under contract, some high quality Montana steer calves reported at \$21, with the heifer end \$17.75, fall delivery.—C.W.

BEUF

A plastic ord is being Pak, Inc., C frankfurter stitute for board in a dogs.

Summer filling the ready to signs exto Bright-col inches, w HEALTH postpaid, tion, Ame Associatio 18, Colo.

The Natl ished an first issue slick-pape illustrated the beef council ac to all Bee ciates, na and auction lications.

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BEEF PROMOTION

A plastic cardboard phonograph record is being made available by Tee-Pak, Inc., Chicago, to packers to help frankfurter sales. The record can substitute for the usual cardboard backboard in a one-pound package of hot dogs.

Summer tourists will soon begin filling the highways. Is your ranch ready to promote beef with roadside signs extolling the product you raise? Bright-colored metal signs, 20 x 20-inches, which read "Enjoy BEEF for HEALTH," are available at \$2 each, postpaid, from Director of Information, American National Cattlemen's Association, 801 E. 17th Ave., Denver 18, Colo.

The National Beef Council has established an official publication with its first issue of "The Beefeater." It's a slick-paper four-page tabloid, offering illustrated news of general interest to the beef cattle industry, and word of council activities. Distribution is free to all Beef Council members and associates, national livestock, agricultural and auction organization and trade publications. The editor is Jeanne Waite.

The executive committee of the beef promotion legislative committee of the California Cattlemen met recently in Berkeley to consider plans for the producer educational program. The group is composed of two representatives from each of the beef and dairy producer groups. Representatives of producer organizations attending the meeting unanimously adopted two proposed amendments to the California beef promotion legislation to be offered at the 1957 session of the state legislature: (1) That all female cattle of any breed sold for reproduction or milking purposes be exempt from the 10-cent-per head fee; (2) That all calves weighing less than 200 pounds liveweight also be exempt from the fee.

A National Livestock Promotion Board was formed at a conference in Des Moines some weeks ago. More than a score of states had representation at the meeting. The board was formed to (1) assist in forming state and national "meat product promotion" organizations; (2) coordinate work of these organizations; (3) promote mark-off systems for funds; (4) promote cooperation of marketing agencies, processors and retailers. The promotion board will consist of 21 national livestock and farm organizations, including the American National, and other cooperating agencies.

SS PAY BENEFITS

Qualified persons 72 years old or more—whether still working and earning or not—are eligible to receive Social Security benefits. If you are one of these people, you should call at the SS office for further details.

New Grub Help Seen

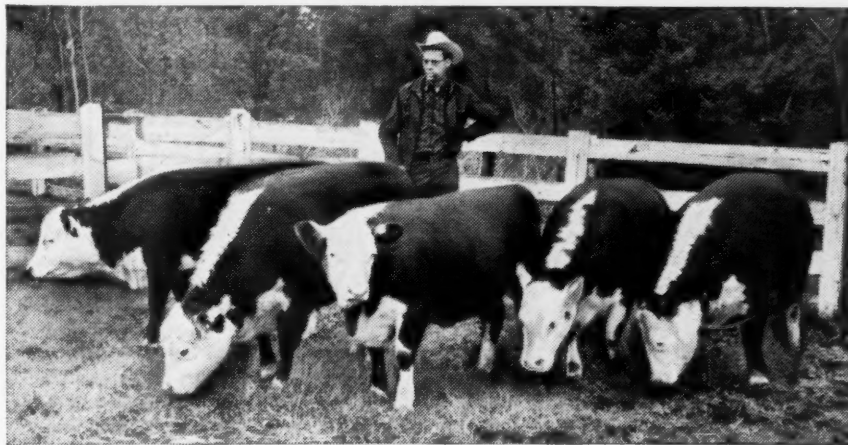
The common cattle grub can be prevented from developing within cattle. That has been demonstrated for the first time, says the USDA, by feeding an organic phosphate chemical—O, O-dimethyl-0-2, 4-5-trichlorophenyl phosphorothic acid—to grub-infested animals. The chemical, designated for experimental purposes as Dow ET-57, is systemic, moving through the bodies of cattle to destroy grubs wherever they occur in the flesh.

Cattle grubs cost the livestock industry an estimated \$100 million annually in losses of meat, milk and damaged hides. At present, the pest is controlled by use of the insecticide rotenone to treat the grub after it makes an emergence hole through the hide on the back of an animal. As part of the new study, research is in progress to determine suitability of ET-57 in terms of grub control, toxic effects on the ani-

mals and chemical residues in milk or flesh. The chemical is not the first systemic one to control grubs, but it is the first to prevent their emergence.

NEW TYPE ABORTION

Field and laboratory tests conducted by veterinary scientists in one of the western states have revealed a previously undescribed bovine abortion entity, according to a report in the journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association. This new type of disease is characterized by sudden onset, severe losses, and a seasonal incidence for the period from July through October. Once established in a herd the disease has occurred annually, with losses confined to first-calf heifers except during the first year when cows of all ages may be affected. So far the veterinary research workers have not been able to demonstrate the causative agent. Studies are being continued.



MR. J. L. LAWRENCE, Manager, Greene Pastures Farm, Elizabethtown, North Carolina, shown with some purebred polled Hereford calves that got low-level phenothiazine for worm control. His entire herd is treated regularly for worms.

You can profit from this man's experience— worms never get a chance in his herd!

The Greene Pastures Farm has found that worm control really pays off.

Mr. Lawrence says, "We haven't had any 'knotty,' unthrifty calves since controlling worms with phenothiazine." The young stock get off to a better start, and the advantage shows up all the way through.

Worms are controlled in the entire herd, all calves are fed low-level phenothiazine in pelleted feed according to the manufacturer's recommendation. The older cattle in this herd, which averages about 700 head, are treated for worms each spring and fall. This spring a therapeutic dose was given in feed pellets, fed over several days. This method was

found to be both easy and economical for Greene Pastures Farm.

It can be just as profitable for you to control worms in your beef or dairy herd as it is for the Greene Pastures Farm. Many manufacturers of feed and minerals now offer products containing phenothiazine for worm control. Ask your supplier for these products. For free booklet on worm control, write Du Pont, Room 2533-N, Wilmington 98, Del.



BETTER THINGS FOR BETTER LIVING
...THROUGH CHEMISTRY

Moderate Grazing Pays

RESULTS OF STUDY OF GRAZING on the northern Great Plains favor moderate grazing over heavy or light. This is the conclusion of researchers at the U. S. Range Livestock Experiment Station at Miles City, Mont.

The research work, as related in Agricultural Research, a USDA publication, involves range grazing under three intensities of use—heavy, moderate, and light. Included are studies of soil moisture, moisture infiltration, and soil compaction; plant density, composition, and production; and rates of livestock reproduction and gains on the different rates of grazing. Four important browse species of the area—greasewood, winterfat, shadscale, and big sagebrush—have been studied to determine utilization and the effects of winter grazing on these plants. Chemical analyses have been made at monthly intervals (November through March) to determine the content of protein, phosphorus, and carotene.

These studies have shown that there is a happy medium of use under which cattle and range thrive and gross return reaches its peak. They have also shown that there are degrees of use that can spell disaster to cattlemen in the long run. Because of widely varying weather conditions from year to year, however, the injurious results of a heavy rate of utilization may develop slowly.

Began 20 Years Ago

Certain phases of the experiments began more than 20 years ago. But only in the past 7 years has it been possible to use breeding cows that are the progeny of the stock raised under each of the three grazing intensity patterns. Results thus obtained provide information on cumulative effects of the grazing intensities—not available, of course, in the earlier years of this research.

Results in 1955 indicate that maximum gross return per acre occurs under moderate grazing—that calves so grazed average "top good" grade at weaning, compared with "low good" for heavy grazing and "top good" to "low choice" on light grazing.

Six lots of cows are being used in the experiment—two lots for each grazing intensity. Intensities cover a range of 1 cow to each 23 acres for heavy grazing, 1 to 31 acres for moderate, and 1 to 39 acres for light. Under heavy grazing, 71 percent of the cows produced calves. These made an average daily gain of 1.6 pounds. Pounds of calf produced per cow at weaning averaged 268, and pounds of calf per acre amounted to 11.6. On moderate grazing, 86 percent of the cows produced calves. These gained 1.8 pounds daily and averaged 428 pounds at weaning, calf pounds produced per acre amounting to 12.1. Ninety-three percent of the cows produced calves in the light grazing experiment. These gained 1.9

pounds a day, weighed an average of 438 pounds at weaning, and provided 10.5 pounds of calf per acre.

Moderation Best

These results favor moderate grazing over heavy or light. Heavy grazing not only resulted in smaller calf crops and lighter gains but also caused some injury to the range over a long period. Light grazing proved that there is an optimum rate of use that provides desired response in beef and range yield—that below this point, ranchers are not getting the most out of their range.

Grazing under heavy intensity, the studies revealed, reduces range plants' vigor. It also causes a shift from tall to short grasses, including blue grama and buffalo grass—not as productive as the native tall grasses. Further, tall grasses stick up through the snow, permitting the stock to see and eat them readily during the winter.

The studies also show that heavy grazing causes changes in soil composition. Trampling leaves little grass residue to rot and replenish the soil. This affects both soil structure and fertility. Frequently, trampling as a result of overgrazing hardens the soil surface so that moisture permeation is retarded to some extent.

Big Area

The Northern Great Plains area embraces parts of Montana, North and South Dakota, and a corner of Wyoming—114 million acres, 85 million of them suitable for grazing. Aim of these range grazing experiments is to determine average response under virtually all the weather and moisture conditions that livestock and range encounter in that area over a period of years. Short-term experiments have not proved trustworthy.

It has taken fully 20 years of research at Miles City to observe changes in vegetative, soil, and moisture conditions accruing from heavy grazing. Such use, if carried to extremes, could permanently impair the productivity of these lands.

YIPPEE!

Here's an unforeseen offshoot of the TV business: A Chicago inventor-manufacturer reports he sells more saddles for "livingroom cowboys" than others

sell for honest-to-gosh horses. According to the Chicago Daily Drovers Journal, the saddle, made for junior cowboys, is real leather, with a custom-made saddle seat, complete with conchos, leather tie strings, bedroll and bright saddle blanket. It's mounted on a stationary tripod and the rider can't fall off no matter how wild the chase or rugged the terrain in the screen thriller.

ICC ACTS ON CAR SHORTAGE

The Interstate Commerce Commission is trying to relieve the car shortage situation which plagues shippers every year. American National Traffic Manager Chas. E. Blaine advises the ICC has issued orders to carriers setting forth five specific operating provisions the purpose of which are to compel the railroads to "discontinue slow scheduling and circuitous routing of loaded freight cars." The commission points out that "such deliberate delay in the movement of loaded freight cars enables shippers of lumber, for example, to load lumber which has not been sold and to search for buyers while the lumber is in transit. The intended result of such practices is to permit some shippers to use freight cars for storage." The order at present is temporarily restrained under an injunction obtained by some lumber shippers in the Northwest.

WESTERN RAILS ALLOWED GRAIN RATE CUT BY ICC

The ICC last month gave permission for western railroads to cut freight rates on feed grains and other coarse grains to "recapture" traffic lost to unregulated truckers. No specific cuts were ordered, but the commission cited certain rate "floors" set in 1934 below which minimum levels the roads could file new tariffs. Principally affected in the case are the Union Pacific; Missouri Pacific; Missouri-Kansas-Texas; Chicago, Burlington & Quincy; Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific, and Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe.

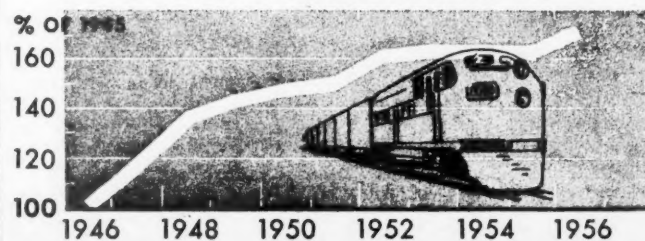
THEY TRAVEL TOO

You thought only people . . . ? The USDA says it's an unusually stay-at-home steer these days that hasn't lived in two or three states before he's pointed toward the packing plant.

RATES UP

Rail rates on livestock and meats are 90 per cent above the 1945 level. Truck rates are up, too, but the rangeman is not so vitally affected because much of his stock is hauled in his own truck or by carriers exempt from ICC regulations as to rates.

RAILROAD FREIGHT RATES FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS



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ASSN. NOTES

The board of directors of the **Kansas Livestock Association** believes that additional organizations are not necessary for the promotion of meat. In a letter to secretaries of state cattlemen's association, Secretary A. G. Pickett explains that the Kansas organization has "always been in favor of a vigorous program through research, education and promotion," but if present associations "are not active and capable of handling this project along with others we believe they should fold up." The promotion work, says the letter, should be handled by a standing committee of associations that are already "going concerns." The "longtime and effective" work of the National Live Stock and Meat Board and the American Meat Institute was cited. "We should work for broader and increased support of our present associations, including the Meat Board," the letter declared.

Kern County Branch of the California Cattlemen's Association, meeting at Bakersfield asked the USDA to change standards for beef grading so the two most important factors would be (1) conformation of carcass and (2) age of the animal when slaughtered, with finish of carcass to be of secondary consideration. The resolution proposed the new standard grade and present commercial, good, choice and prime grades be replaced by six new grades; i.e., Choice #1, Choice #2, Choice #3, Good #1, Good #2, Good #3.

Choice grades would be of excellent conformation and young or red-bone cattle. Choice #1 would equal or better present average-choice; Choice #2 would be present high-good or low-choice; Choice #3 would be similar to the new standard grade (previously low-good.) Good grades would need only fair conformation and could be older cattle; Good #1 would be young with good outside finish; Good #2 would include older cattle with considerable finish; Good #3, thin heiferettes, off-quality steers and heifers.

Members of the **North Park (Colo.) Stockgrowers Association**, meeting last month at Walden, elected Dud Chedsey of Coalmont president, succeeding Oliver Meyring, and Kenny Carlstrom of Walden vice-president. The stockmen approved a 10-cent deduction per head on cattle sales for beef promotion use. The group voted to hold a fall fair instead of one in the spring. American National public relations director Lyle Liggett was a speaker at the meeting.

The annual convention of the **Utah Cattlemen's Association** has been moved up from early 1957 to Dec. 7-8, 1956, at Salt Lake City. Secretary E. S. Crawford explains that with the earlier dating, the meeting will precede, instead of follow, the state legislature term.

Robert Morehouse was re-elected president of the **Northern Lake County (Oregon) Stockmen's Association** at a

meeting at Ft. Rock. Mrs. Eleanor Derrick was named secretary. The association is made up of ranchers with range on the Ft. Rock district of the Deschutes National Forest.

Corn Belt Livestock Feeders Association directors have named Don F. Magdanz of Pierce, Nebr. secretary-treasurer of the organization; he succeeds Harlan Hollowell of Milledgeville, Ill., recently resigned. Mr. Magdanz will continue to perform the duties of his present position as secretary-treasurer of the **Nebraska Livestock Feeders Association**.

NIMPA MEETS

Beef panel discussions of the **National Independent Meat Packers Association** at Chicago last month took strong note of importance of beef grading for the independent packer because the average small packer is forced to use grading as a substitute for expensive brand advertising. It was brought out that grading should receive less criticism and more support to make it succeed. Nearly half of all beef is now federally graded; roughly 60 per cent of it is choice.

Re-elected for the third year as president of the **National Independent Meat Packers Association** in Chicago was Chris E. Finkbeiner, of Little Rock, Ark. John E. Thompson, Chicago, was re-elected first vice-president. Executive secretary is John A. Killick.

AUCTION GROUP TO MEET

The annual convention of the **American National Livestock Auction Association** will be held June 14-16 in Denver. This ninth annual gathering will bring to Colorado livestock auction market owners, operators, employees and their families from throughout the nation.

THEY TELL YOU HOW

A new booklet just off the press for free farm distribution, is entitled "Feed Handling Equipment." It was written by two Idaho University professors, J. E. Dixon and J. W. Martin, and it includes such information as how to convert wagons and trucks to make unloading automatic; how portable elevators can be installed to lift feed from trench silos; how mechanical feed bunks can cut labor costs.

REGIONAL PICTURE . . .

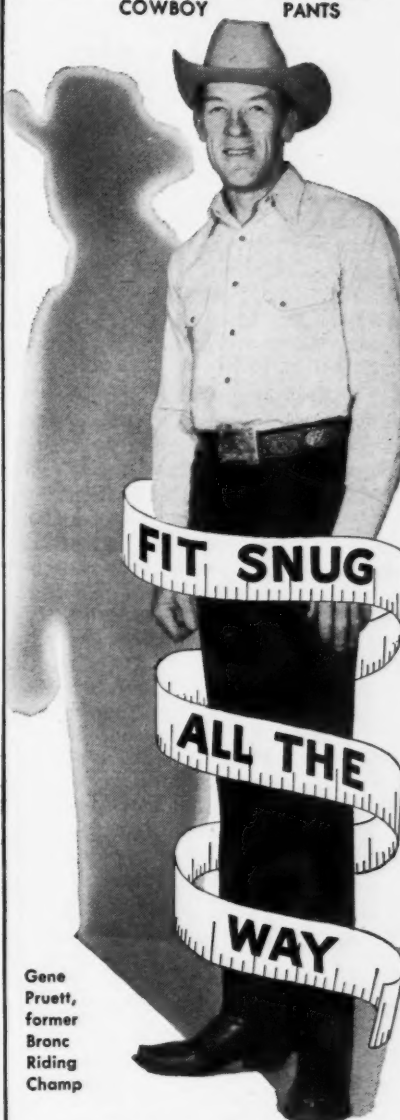
(From P. 10)

bers of milk cattle in the East, where they equal beef cattle in number, hold the eastern increase in all cattle to only slightly more than the rate of growth in the West, where beef outnumber milk cattle 4½ to 1. Thus little regional redistribution in the number of all cattle and calves has taken place; the apportionment between regions is about the same in 1956 as it was in 1949. The Northeast has lost and mountain and Pacific West has gained one percentage

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point. The Southeast has gained two points and the Plains have lost the same number. These changes are scarcely significant.

Beef Boosting In Spotlight

THE PROMOTION OF BEEF took the spotlight in discussions at the 30th annual convention of the Washington Cattlemen's Association in Spokane last month. Speakers who stressed the importance of active beef boosting work included Max Cullen of Chicago, assistant secretary-manager of the National Live Stock and Meat Board; Forest Noel, executive director of the National Beef Council; E. F. Forbes, president-manager of Western States Meat Packers Association, San Francisco; C. W. McMillan, Swift & Co., Chicago; Dan Thornton, Gunnison, Colo. cattleman who retired from his state's governorship last year.

John McMinimee was re-elected to **preside over the organization another year**; **Edward Francisco** was elected **first vice-president**; **Jay Agnew** and **Al Matsen**, district vice-presidents. **J. K. "Pat" Ford** is the secretary; he reported a 4,000-member listing in 33 county groups. The members voted to hold the 1957 convention in Wenatchee; confirming selection will be made by the board of directors at a later date.

The Washington resolutions called for representation on the state game commission; asked for deer and elk hunting plan; asked for strong trespass rules; wanted study of marketing.

The cattlemen wished research to be conducted against Dalmatian toadflax, a dangerous range weed of the Pacific Northwest, and continuation of other weed controls; urged property tax laws to include annual livestock production in exempted farm products and an equitable assessment structure; expressed support for the youth range management camp held annually in the state.

The resolutions further: opposed freight rate reduction on westbound packinghouse products and dressed meats; asked that markets deduct 5 cents per head from cattle consignors for beef promotion. They asked full appropriation of funds under the Anderson-Mansfield Act for range revegetation; also on range improvement and maintenance on national forest lands under the Granger-Thye Act, and a study into forage use on public lands.

Coloradoans Favor Checkoff

THE COLORADO CATTLEMEN'S Association will be led next year by a new slate of officers, named at the annual convention May 23-26 in Colorado Springs. Succeeding Bob Burghart of the Springs in the presidency is Tom Field of Gunnison; second vice-president is Robert Schafer of

Boyero; another second vice-president is M. McAlpine of Redwing; Jack Wadlow, Whitewater, treasurer. David G. Rice, Jr., of Denver is the executive secretary.

The program of speakers featured Earle G. Reed, general livestock agent of the Union Pacific Railroad; Writer-Economist Francis A. Kutish; Rilea W. Doe, vice-president of Safeway Stores; Iowa Farmer David P. Livingston, and, as banquet toastmaster, Chester H. Lauck, formerly of the radio team Lum and Abner and now with Continental Oil Company.

Other highlights included two panel discussions; the second, on the subject "What's Ahead," was moderated by Willard Simms of the National Western Stock Show and included Claude Olson, former president of the South Dakota Stock Growers; American Nation President Don C. Collins; C. T. "Tad" Sanders, secretary-treasurer of the National Beef Council.

In their resolutions the stockmen approved the voluntary check-off system at central markets, livestock auctions and sales rings of 10 cents per head to finance beef promotion; approved present public utility zoning plan for establishing and adjusting livestock truck rates; supported passage of the Barrett water bill protecting state water rights; urged reduction of assessed valuations on all farm buildings except dwelling and garage; opposed any eminent domain legislation.

The cattlemen also opposed any restrictions or limitations on lessees to post state owned lands; recommended an annual quota on all imports of livestock and livestock products to equal poundage exported previous year; endorsed S.B. 3181 calling for repeal of the wartime 3 per cent federal transportation tax on all agriculture and livestock products; urged full penalties in cattle theft cases.

They endorsed an accelerated official calfhood voluntary vaccination program for beef herds in the state; protested BLM proposals to reduce permitted livestock on Taylor grazing land in some local areas; asked for maximum authorized appropriation for range improvements; endorsed H.R. 8750 on watershed protection; urged adoption of

the Reed-Dirksen amendment limiting top individual income tax rate to 25 per cent and beginning rate to less than 10 per cent with abolishment of the inheritance tax laws.

Aid Question Gets Tie Vote

THAT PART OF THE MEMBERSHIP of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association that attended the May 9 convention in Bend was unable, in a resolutions debate, to break a tie vote on one of the proposals, with the result that the question will be put to a vote by the full paid-up membership of the organization. Subject of the controversial resolution is a federal assistance program, which was advocated as a temporary expedient, provided it would avoid accumulation of stored supplies and would not entail controls over production.

In their other resolutions, the Oregonians voted in favor of planned range improvement on forest lands and a control program against brush of various kinds; called for congressional appropriation of funds to control noxious and poisonous weeds on national forest lands; opposed public lands bills H. R. 9179, 8549 and 8944; protested further removal of lands except on basis of military necessity and endorsed the American National's resolution on withdrawal of public lands; opposed S. 3444 proposing establishment of federal-state land study commissions.

They asked the government to expand its beef purchase program, and called for expanded work in the state against internal parasites; opposed any reduction of rail freight rates on westbound dressed meats without a similar reduction on livestock rates; urged continuing research into increasing uses of agricultural products; approved establishment of the so-called federal system, whereunder representatives would be elected on a basis of population. There was also a resolution asking for a number of game and wildlife controls, and one which called for certain changes in the state's brucellosis law.



New officers of the Colorado Cattlemen's Association elected in late May at Colorado Springs. L. to r.: Tom Field, Gunnison, president; Robert Schafer,

Boyero, first vice-president; Jack Wadlow, Whitewater, treasurer; R. E. Jones, Yampa, and M. McAlpine, Redwing, vice-presidents.

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Also requested was controlled experimentation by the BAI into possibilities of using Anaplasma Central in this country; recommended was appointment of an association committee to work on developing a county "package membership" program. The cattlemen favored a sales tax, with certain provisions, over local property taxes; supported S.3740 and H. R. 9885 revision the Packers and Stockyards Act; approved a plan to charge no brand inspection fee on a calf unless it sells for more than \$3; recommended that more funds be made available for range management and improvement; asked for establishment of a state beef commission.

Garland Meador of Prairie City was re-elected president; George Russell of Vale, vice-president. New second vice-presidents are Ernie Davis, Baker County; Ted Hyde, Klamath County; Walt Schrock, Crook County; Walter Fisher, Clackamas County; Al Powers, Coos County.

Eugene was chosen 1957 convention city.

Mont. Backs Beef Council

THE 72ND ANNUAL CONVENTION of the Montana Stockgrowers Association at Billings was set down as a good one to which many members came to take part in all sessions. Receiving particular mention was a panel discussion, on the subject "Price Spread and Beef Marketing Margins." Moderator was Howard Doggett of the USDA, Washington; participants were Wesley Hardenbergh, head of the American Meat Institute, Chicago; Cecil Hellbusch, Denver, regional public relations director for Safeway Stores; David Dolnick, Chicago, director of research, Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America; Knut Johnson, president of the Corn Belt Feeders Association, Elburn, Ill.; Don Tavenner, Deer Lodge, Mont., ranch operator; Ray Bering of Billings, manager of the Northern Hotel.

Programmed speakers included Dan Fulton, outgoing president; J. Hugo Aronson, state governor; Secretary Ralph Miracle; Don Collins, head of the American National; R. H. Painter, Canadian livestock insect specialist; Publisher Nelson R. Crow, Los Angeles; Forest Noel, executive director, National Beef Council; William Cheney of the Montana Livestock Commission.

In his talk, American National President Collins pointed out that "today's homemaker can buy the finest beef in history at bargain prices any place in the country. . . . Every phase of our expanding beef promotion activities must be geared to the needs and thinking of the homemaker; providing ever-increasing quality is good service and, thus, good business."

Jack S. Brenner of Grant, Mont.,

was named president of the association; Gene Etchart, Glasgow, first vice-president; Wayne Bratten, Winnett, second vice-president.

A convention highlight was the announcement by Wallis Huidekoper of Big Timber, long-time rancher and leader in the state's livestock industry, that he was making a gift of his ranch

to the Endowment and Research Foundation of Montana State College for use of the state veterinary research laboratory, to be known as the Huidekoper Veterinary Research Station.

Convention resolutions asked the American National to continue its support of the National Beef Council and its beef promotion program; called for



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study of feasibility of collecting 5 cents per head on all direct sales of cattle to Montana Beef Council for beef promotion; commended CowBelles for their efforts with special emphasis on Beef for Father's Day.

Also, they expressed disapproval of any interpretation of the Packers and Stockyards Act or regulations published under it by the USDA hindering or obstructing deductions on cattle sales for promotion; endorsed work of the Montana and National Beef councils; asked for continuing reduction of deer and antelope numbers and special non-resident hunting licenses in this connection.

The Montanans recommended establishment of a western research laboratory to study diseases peculiar to the range states; requested the animal disease eradication branch of the USDA to try to develop a "screen test" for beef cattle in connection with brucellosis recertification; unalterably opposed price supports on beef cattle; recommended that in times of surplus meat production import quotas be cut and tariffs raised to protect the U. S. livestock industry.

They further favored research on urinary calculi and appropriation of funds for such research; asked the ICC to take steps to assure prompt return of all stock cars to their owners; called for amendment of the state constitution to allow for interim legislature committees; called for appointment of an association committee to draw up a bill or bills for protection of stockmen and their stock being driven on public highways in high-speed traffic conditions; suggested control of seismograph exploration activities.

Meat - Words & Phrases

Our language is filled with a number of words and phrases derived from the livestock industry. Hidden in such prosaic words as steak, pork, wiener, bologna, etc., are many stories of high adventure, according to National Live Stock Producer.

The meat-words and meat-phrases offer an intimate panorama of mankind's 10,000 year struggle during his march across Asia, across Europe and to the United States.

Take the simple word "meat." It comes from the Saxon words "mete" or "mad" meaning "moist food." Sausage literally means "salt meat," the journey meat of mankind since the dawn of civilization.

Salami, the world's oldest "fancy sausage," was invented as a victory meat in riotous celebration over the defeat of King Salamis just 2,436 years ago.

Steak comes from the Scandinavian "steik" meaning "meat on a stick" which is how the early Norsemen cooked their meat.

Beef is a hand-me-down from the Norman conquerors of England whose name for an ox was "bos" (hence the popular name of Bossy for cows). The

THE STATE PRESIDENTS



Mr. Bantham

is owned by F. Ambrose Clark of Cooperstown and Westbury, L. I.; it is described by Mr. Bantham as a highly diversified 2,200-acre operation at the headwaters of the Susquehanna River.

"In a sense," says Mr. Bantham, "this could be called a farm of 'vertical' diversification, as much of its production carries all the way through to the ultimate consumer. For example, the produce from its 105 head of commercial Angus beef cows is completely processed through the stages of growing, fattening, fitting, slaughtering, aging, to processing into retail cuts of fresh

C. H. Bantham is president of the New York Beef Cattlemen's Association, far to the east of most of the PRODUCER's rancher-readers. He is manager of the Iroquois Farm at Cooperstown, N. Y., which is in a rich dairying section of the state. The farm

meat sold to the public through its farm-operated meat market." This holds true also for the plant's sheep, hog, poultry and dairy cattle departments.

Mr. Bantham worked on the Iroquois Farm from 1936 to 1942 as accountant, and in 1942 he assumed the management of the establishment. He is 54 years old; married; has a son and a daughter, both married, and three grandsons. He is a past president of Cooperstown Rotary Club and of the town's chamber of commerce, and is a long-time member and past foreman of the volunteer fire company of the village.

The village of Cooperstown is small—3,500 population—situated on picturesque Otsego Lake; it has attained national recognition as the home of the Baseball Hall of Fame and Village Crossroads or, as it is better known, the Farmers' Museum. Both of these attract thousands of visitors during the tourist season.

(Editor's Note: Since giving the above information to the PRODUCER, Mr. Bantham has stepped down from the presidency, succeeded by Robert Watson, Clyde, N. Y.)

NEW ABORTION DRUG

A report from Colorado A.&M. College shows veterinarians there have successfully aborted feedlot heifers with a new type drug, Repositoldiethylstilbestrol. They have injected the drug in 256 heifers in northern Colorado feedlots since last fall and aborted from 50 to 86 per cent of them—success depending mainly on how long the heifers were pregnant before getting the injections. Cost ranged from 75 cents to \$1.50 per head, depending on dosage, plus a charge for examination (usually about \$1). This compares with the \$40-per-head "dock" that buyers commonly penalize fat, calvy heifers.

Best success was noted in the test on heifers up to three months pregnant; 86 per cent aborted within three to 27 days after a single shot. While the drug aborts heifers pregnant six months or more, results were not as good; from 50 to 63 per cent aborted. About one heifer in 50, in this group only, developed complications, such as going off feed, forming large udders susceptible to mastitis, etc. It is believed that the drug would be safe enough to use on valuable breeding animals that have been mismated. Veterinarians at the college urge examination of heifers to determine pregnancy before giving the injections. In case an open heifer is injected, it will come into heat for three to 10 days and there may be some udder development. Examination of the whole herd and limiting treatment to pregnant animals eliminates loss of weight and any chances of incorrect injection.

French used the word "boef" meaning beef or beef cattle.

Pork, of course, comes from the Latin "porcus" meaning pig. Ham, of Saxon-Germanic ancestry, literally means "shin bone." "Bacho" meaning "smoked pork" eventually became "bacon." Hock is the Scotch word "hough" meaning "heel."

Corned beef, the gastronomic delight of the Irish and English, has nothing to do with the cereal but the process of curing with "corns of salt."

Hamburger, of course, is a lesson in city pride from Germany transported to America by early German butchers.

The sandwich plate of cold cuts goes back to the Earl of Sandwich who lived during the reign of George III and the American revolution. Captain Cook named the Sandwich Islands after him (now the Hawaiian Islands).

The Earl liked to gamble and refused to stop for meals so his servants brought the meal to him in the form of meat between two slices of bread—a Sandwich—which he could hold in one hand and continue gambling with the other.

Various historians cite Henry VIII, James I and Charles II as each having actually—at dinner's burping end—knighted the remains of an excellent beef as "Sir Loin." It's a good story but more likely the word is derived from the French "surlonge" meaning the upper loin.

The word chop comes from the Danish "kappen" meaning "to cut off" rather the pidgin English of China where "chop chop" means "hurry up."

SPOILAGE HALT

Control of food-spoilage bacteria is now foreseen through use of atomic radiation and antibiotics. Results of studies in progress in Nevada may make it possible for the housewife to leave fresh steaks out of the refrigerator for a day or two if necessary, without fear of their deterioration. Commercial fisheries in Canada and poultry processors in the United States are reported to be making use of purified antibiotics as a preservative, and work is now in progress to keep beef fresh. An Ohio State University report indicates slight additions of antibiotics such as aureomycin may delay spoilage in meats 48 hours or longer.

A recent article in the Reader's Digest, condensed from a Saturday Evening Post story, says the new method may be "the biggest advance in food processing since development of frozen foods 25 years ago." In treating steers, aureomycin is injected through the blood vessels immediately after slaughtering. Fresh-killed chickens are cooled with the usual ice-slush bath, but the bath is spiked with aureomycin. The process, called "Acronize," demonstrated, in other tests, a marked tenderizing effect on beef.

Residue studies conducted independently by industry and government reveal no significant trace of antibiotic left in treated foods after cooking. The Food and Drug Administration has cleared use of aureomycin in protecting chickens, and studies now under way are expected to lead soon to FDA's approval on beef and lamb. Dr. Herbert E. Robinson, laboratories director for Swift & Company, Chicago, told convened cattlemen attending the Washington State College Beef Cattle Day last month that the new work may bring about a revolution in the whole food-processing industry.

NATIONAL VIEWS

Forest Service appropriations actions of interest to cattlemen include: (1) Range resource management. Budget request for fiscal year was \$1,110,400—\$100,000 more than last year. House approved increase; Senate raised it by another \$500,000. . . . (2) Range vegetation. Request was \$715,000, same as last year. House approved request; Senate raised it by \$500,000. . . . (3) Co-operative range improvements. Request was \$700,000, approximately full appropriation under Granger-Thye Act. Approved in full by both House and Senate.

A cooperative marketing organization has asked through its Denver house that the USDA quash Denver Stockyards Co. Ruling 10 which restricts commission men and traders using Denver market facilities from buying cattle in most of Colorado and diverting them from the Denver market. In December, the USDA refused the marketing organization's request that the

stockyards rule be found invalid "on its face" and in restraint of trade without a hearing. The USDA also denied a stockyard's request for a subpoena of the marketing association's records, saying a subpoena would not be given until the marketing association presented testimony. The USDA said it found nothing in the Packers and Stockyards Act that would prevent the stockyards from doing anything not specifically authorized.

Per capita consumption of meat in the South, says USDA, is expected to rise about 28 per cent by 1975. Under full employment conditions, this would mean an increase from an estimated 122 pounds in 1950 to 156 pounds per person. The figures are issued as part of a research study finding by the USDA in cooperation with 10 southern state agricultural experiment stations.

Young Commercial cattle will be called "Standard" on June 1 under a new arrangement of federal beef grades which has split the old Commercial into two divisions—the "Standard," and "Commercial," retained for older animals in the class. The grades for slaughter cattle will be Prime, Choice, Good, Standard, Commercial, Utility, Cutter, Canner.

Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA, reports that the United States is at present producing nearly a third of the world total of lard and more than half the total output of tallow and greases. The U. S. in 1955 exported 562 million pounds of lard and 1.3 billion pounds of tallow and greases—more than 80 per cent of total world trade on them, with supplies of animal fats available for export here promising to



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be even larger this year. (We import practically no lard and just minor amounts of tallow.)

The U. S. Supreme Court has decided that a county agricultural stabilization and conservation committee, representing the secretary of agriculture, may enter a farm and measure the acreage of wheat to determine compliance with the wheat acreage allotment for the farm.

Soil Conservation Districts now cover more than 1½ billion acres, with about 80 per cent of all land in the U. S. within the boundaries—including 85 per cent of all farmland and 90 per cent in number of all farms and ranches. There are 2,700 such districts, completely covering a third of the states.

Under a Quartermaster Food and Container Institute contract, the American Meat Institute Foundation is exploring the feasibility of tenderizing beef through a combination of freeze-dehydration and enzyme application during rehydration and before cooking.

At its convention in Reno in 1955, the American National adopted a resolution favoring basic research in the field of beef tenderization and urging encouragement by all segments of the industry and government agencies toward the objective.

The Senate Interior Committee will hold a hearing June 19 on the nomination of Former Congressman Wesley A. D'Ewart of Montana to be assistant secretary of the interior, pending since Jan. 12. Former Senator Fred A. Seaton has been named by President Eisenhower to be secretary of the interior.

"CATTLEMEN'S CHURCH WINDOW"

Most churches are decorated with stained glass windows depicting various scenes, but a Gunnison, Colo. church is the only one in the United States that has a window symbolizing the cowboy.

It was in 1915 that citizens of the mountain-ringed ranching community traveled to Denver and hired the artist to design the window. Made of multi-colored panels of glass, it shows a cowboy astride his horse watching a mountain sunrise. It was placed in the Methodist Church where it stayed for many years as a tribute to the time and money ranchers in the area had devoted to the church.

When the church was torn down in 1945 the window was stored for a while, then recently placed in the vestibule of the newly erected Community Church. Beneath it are carved these words by Charles A. Page:

The symbol of our western lands
Surveys his land and rising sun and pauses
In the saddle for a time, his face
toward an unseen cross.
Upon the pommel rests his hands
And worships on this day of days
The resurrection of our Lord.

—Gene Sperry.

MONTANA STUDY ON GAINABILITY

RAPID GAINS AND INCREASED ABILITY to convert feed to high-quality beef on the range or in the feedlot are results of research underway at the United States Range Livestock Experiment Station, Miles City, Mont.

ARS researchers, in cooperation with the Montana experiment station, are following a program of inbreeding and continuous production testing to determine their progress.

Selection and line breeding over a period of 20 years has enabled researchers to increase the average performance level of many of the desirable characteristics that make for efficient beef production in individual animals or specific lines of cattle.

A 10-year comparison of steers, sired at the station by a single line of inbred bulls, stands out as an example of the degree to which such characteristics can be improved.

Four groups of steers, started in the feedlot at weaning weights averaging 442 pounds, gained an average of 1.99 pounds daily, weighed 904 pounds out of the feedlot, and ate 586 pounds of grain for each 100 pounds of gain. Ten years later, another group of steers



The American Meat Institute periodically sends clipsheets to editors offering copy and art on beef and other meat. Recent material points out that "beef supplies are sufficient to yield enough meat for all beef lovers—those who like it several times a week, those hankering for the beginning of the 'cook it outdoors' season, and those who like the security of a home freezer well stocked with meat.

"For every-day eating, best buys include pot roasts, stew meat, ground beef for loaves, hamburgers, and meat balls, and oven roasts. Alfresco cooks or 'chefs' can choose from beef steaks for charcoal grilling. T-bone, club, rib, tenderloin, and minute steaks, and the frozen steaks, too, are popular choices for outdoor cooking.

"Foresighted homemakers will freeze many cuts of the high quality beef now available at attractive prices. Remember, beef may be stored six to eight months in a home freezer which maintains temperatures of 0° F. or lower."

sired by a bull of the same inbred line was checked. They averaged 456 pounds at weaning, gained 2.48 pounds daily, weighed 1,064 pounds out of the feedlot, and used 593 pounds of grain for each 100 pounds of weight put on.

In both cases, the steers were calved in April, weaned in October and fed for the same length of time on the same rations. The daily gain for the latter group was 25 per cent greater and the final weight 160 pounds more per steer. The slightly greater quantity of feed used by the latter group of animals is chargeable to the usual reduced feed efficiency that develops in cattle as fattening increases.

Breeding work began at the station in 1934. Since then, 11 lines have been established and maintained, three others having been discarded because of undesirable characteristics.

Production tests of the lines retained are made in two ways as the work progresses. Potential sires are tested for their gaining ability and feed efficiency and those selected are bred to grade cows. A random sample of each sire's progeny is likewise tested. Steer calves are raised to about 15 months, when evaluations are made as to the merits of each animal—alive and in the carcass. These evaluations reflect for or against the herd sires in each experimental line.

Each of the 11 lines of purebred Herefords represents a closed herd in which no outside blood is introduced once a line becomes established. A herd sire in any line is replaced only when his production record (sire index) is surpassed by that of a younger sire of the same line.

Production tests of sires and progeny have served to prove the high degree of heritability of the ability to gain. Sire and steer records of gain have been strikingly similar.

In feeding tests one year, for example, a line-10 bull ranked first among seven being tested, with a gain just short of three pounds a day. Steers from the same bull also ranked first the following year, their daily gain averaging 2.66 pounds. In no case were progeny better or worse than their sires by more than one rank.

Research at Miles City is also directed toward developing at least two other important characteristics aside from the ability to gain and use feed efficiently. These are milking ability and carcass quality of the stock.

Like ability to gain, neither of these characteristics can be judged accurately by selecting animals for thickness of fleshing, body type and uniformity. These factors have been emphasized in the past and are still useful in selecting for desirable characteristics. Much improvement can be attributed to their use. But they don't tell the whole story.

Milking ability is as important in beef cattle as in dairy cattle. Production testing helps to determine the adjustment that should be made, up or down, through breeding and selection, to reach an optimum. Heavy produc-

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tion of milk in a range cow is about as undesirable as too little production because it frequently results in damage to part of the animal's udder.

The big test of breeding work comes in carcass studies of the individual progeny of breeding stock. These studies determine the actual quality of the beef produced—meat in relation to fat and bone, size of the eye muscle and the length and breadth of the loin, marbling of the lean with fat, and all the other quality factors that cannot be accurately determined by the examination of live cattle.

This research has served not only to bring out the more desirable characteristics but also to reveal and eliminate many of the undesirable characteristics in some lines.

Breeding work at Miles City has pointed up the need to start with top-notch foundation stock and continue with careful, continuous culling of animals to obtain the best results.—From USDA'S Agricultural Research.

INSTITUTE 50 YEARS OLD

For its golden anniversary convention this year, the American Meat Institute announces the theme will be 50 years of progress in the meat packing industry. First meeting of the organization, which represents 85 per cent of the commercial meat packing business of the U. S., was held Oct. 1, 1906 in Chicago. This year the meeting will run Sept. 28-Oct. 2, also at Chicago.

COW KILL STILL DOWN

Slaughter figures show cows and heifers still under last year for the first four months. Cow and heifer slaughter was 42.8 per cent of total slaughter the first four months of 1956, as against 49.1 per cent last year. For cows alone the percentages were 27.4 in 1956, 32.7 in 1955; for heifers, 15.4 in 1956; 16.4 in 1955.

TO AID DISEASE STUDY

A research grant of \$3,000 has been made to the Colorado A.&M. Agricultural Experiment Station to study infectious rhinotracheitis in cattle. The grant came from the research division of the American Cyanamid Company, which believes a vaccine may possibly be developed as a result of the study. The ailment to be researched attacks beef cattle only, primarily in the feedlot, where it has caused grave losses in recent years.

MARKETING STUDY

"Marketing Aspects of Western Cattle Finishing Operations" is a western regional research publication put out by the Nevada Agricultural Experiment Station in cooperation with the agricultural experiment stations of the western states and the USDA. As Bulletin No. 190, authored by Frank S. Scott, Jr., it is issued by the State Printing Office at Carson City, Nev.

Young Beef Calves Make Economical Gains After Early Weight Loss

Latest results of growth studies with identical-twin calves show that young heifers and steers three to four months old can be kept temporarily on rations that barely maintain their weight—or even result in some weight loss—and yet can recover later on full feed to make economical gains and high-quality beef, the USDA reports.

These findings supplement earlier results which demonstrated that beef steers kept on maintenance rations between the 6 and 12 months of age could nevertheless produce good beef economically later when sufficient cheap feed was made available. Many animal husbandmen formerly believed that unless calves gained steadily at least half a pound a day their ability to make profitable gains would be permanently impaired.

The researchers feel that continuous feeding for rapid growth is desirable for beef cattle whenever economically feasible. But there need be no loss in growth potential as a result of low calorie intake for 3 to 6 months during the year, so long as the animals' limited forage is supplemented by sufficient protein, minerals, and carotene (provitamin A) to keep them healthy.

Three-Way Range Seeder

A machine that prepares a seedbed, plants grass and legumes and places fertilizer, all in one operation, has been developed by agricultural engineers at the University of Wyoming. It promises to have practical use on Wyoming's dryland range and in other areas where conditions are similar. The new machine plants in rows and thus does not need a prepared seedbed to work in. It plants in 40-inch rows and leaves 22 inches of undisturbed vegetation between the rows, which minimizes danger from wind and water erosion. As the machine plants seed, it can also apply fertilizer directly below the seed. Experiments show that the entire cost of planting an acre of range, including seed, labor and machine costs (but not the fertilizer), is about \$3.25.

DID THE TRICK

The FBI got fast action from their "This Man Is Wanted" item in the May PRODUCER. The magazine had been in the mails only four days when the wanted individual, who had been sought since 1953, was apprehended on a ranch near Twin Falls, Ida.

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Grass Range, Mont.

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registered bull calves

N Bar Ranch

Grass Range, Mont.



LADIES' CHOICE



Through a Ranch House Window

By Dorothy McDonald

June stretches hot and dry across our hills, and the grain that should be growing tall has begun to color with an olive-green tone though it is hardly a foot high. This has been such a long dry cycle here that sometimes Himself and I tell each other, "We're lucky to be out of ranching now."

But we're not fooling anyone. Drouth or storm, bad times or good, what way of life can compare with it? Who knows? Somewhere, some day, maybe I'll find another ranch house window. In the meantime, thanks for sharing yours with me.

* * *

So many of your letters lie unanswered on my desk—and, because of my life at the moment, unanswerable—that I should like to say a sincere collective "thank you" to all my nice CowBelle friends. It is just because my days have but the usual number of hours—and I need at least six more—that I do not write to each of you.

Not to go too deeply into my personal affairs, I had expected to be lonely and empty-handed with even the Youngest a thousand miles away, so I went back to teaching last fall. It was a fine idea until a family illness made it necessary for me to bring the three small grandchildren home at Easter-time. So, until school is out, my life is unbelievably complicated.

I shall think of you all often, and delight in what you tell me of your group's activities and of the life you see beyond your ranch house windows. But until vacation time . . . I shall not answer your letters!

* * *

All CowBelle activities just now seem pointed toward our all-out beef promotion plan, "Beef for Father's Day." Of course I have reports so far of only your tentative plans, so will wait until they've been put into effect before commenting on them. It is my hope that each state will send us here at Chimes a report as soon as their program is completed. We'd like to give credit where credit is due . . . and the ideas worked out this year may be utilized and perhaps even improved upon by other groups next year.

So, let's hear how **your** state put over the campaign.

AT HOME ON THE RANGE

Our recipe this month comes from Alice Knutson Bang, this year's chair-

man of the North Dakota "Beef for Father's Day" committee, via their very fine state cattlemen's magazine BAR NORTH. It's an extra-special way with 'burgers, which men and children always seem to love. And, as Mrs. Bang suggests, if all the steaks or prime rib roast got eaten up at dinner time, Dad and the youngsters will be very happy with Beef Bunburgers for supper on Father's Day.

BEEF BUNBURGERS

- 1½ lbs. ground beef
- 1 tbsp. fat
- ½ cup minced onion
- ¼ cup chopped green pepper (optional)
- 1 can tomato soup
- 1 tsp. each of salt, dry mustard, poultry seasoning
- ½ tsp. thyme
- 1½ tsp. vinegar
- 1 tbsp. brown sugar

Brown beef in fat, add onions, green pepper, and cook until tender. Add remaining ingredients. Simmer, uncovered, 30 minutes. Serve with dill pickle slices on toasted buns.

* * *

It seems to me this would be something special cooked in an old black iron frying pan over a campfire in whatever favorite picnic spot your family loves. What lovelier ending could there be to Father's Day?

And so . . . good eating . . . and good evening . . . to you all. D. L. McD.

Meet These New State Presidents



Mrs. Breen

Alabama's new state president, Mrs. W. P. Breen, was born and grew up at Montevallo, Ala. She attended Beasons College in Meridian, Miss. She and Mr. Breen were married in 1925 and lived for several years in Birmingham, where Mr. Breen was in the real estate business. They moved to their plantation in 1931, at which time Mr. Breen started converting the land from row crops to pastureland. For about 15 years they ran a commercial herd but for the past 10 years have been producing registered Herefords.

The Breens have one son, who is in the teaching profession.

Mr. Breen is now president of the Alabama Hereford Breeders Association, and Myrtle Breen says, modestly, "I have always been very much interested in what was going on around the ranch and take an active part in the operation."

It is always a happy and effective partnership when a husband and wife, both interested in the industry, serve simultaneously as presidents of the cattlemen's group and the CowBelles. From the present outlook for the beef promotion program in Alabama, Mr. and Mrs. Breen are making a very effective team. Alabama is to be congratulated on having them during this crucial year of 1956.

* * *



Mrs. Cross

Wyoming's new president, Mary Cross, was born in Goodland, Kans., and came to Wyoming with her parents as a very small girl. With them she lived on a homestead north of Douglas; here she learned ranching the pioneer way. With her two sisters and two brothers she enjoyed a carefree childhood riding the range and exploring the secrets which Wyoming has to teach her children. Mary and her sisters attended a private school at Alliance, Nebr. and when their parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Ryan, moved to Glenrock that the family might have the advantage of formal education, she graduated from high school there. Later she took normal training and taught four years in Converse County's rural schools, which brought her into close touch with the needs and problems of education in sparsely settled areas.

Mary Ryan was married in 1934 to George H. Cross, Jr., the son of a pioneer rancher, and for several years resided on their place, the historic old Buckshot Ranch, established in the early 80's as a side stage station between Fort Fetterman and Rock Creek. Here George Harry III and John Michael were born. At Buckshot they were so far from school that the family moved to their Bedtick Ranch which is close to Douglas and school. It is located on the old Oregon Trail where it crossed Bedtick creek. At this ranch two more children, Roderick and Mary

Julia appeared. Cross took though not work PTA social and ways she ranching. the Converse International a hostess friends who home.

The oldest Michael, a Wyoming American Harry III v Wyoming ing president National C Mary Cr as parliament and vice-proud to in year.

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Aside the Cov Harper's two child year-old the child sideration

Julia appeared on the scene. Here Mary Cross took on more home responsibility though not to the exclusion of church work, PTA activities, Country Club, social and charitable work. But always she had a special interest in ranching. She is an active member of the Converse County Club of Zonta International, and her graciousness as a hostess endears her to the many friends who come to the lovely ranch home.

The older sons, George H. and John Michael, are members of the Junior Wyoming Stock Growers and Junior American National Cattlemen. George Harry III was the first president of the Wyoming Junior group and is now acting president of the Junior American National Cattlemen.

Mary Cross has served the CowBelles as parliamentarian, secretary-treasurer and vice-president, and her state is proud to introduce her as president this year.

Mrs. Mell C. Harper, the newly elected president of the Kansas CowBelles, is particularly well fitted for her office as she has served the group before as organizing chairman—and was, as well, the first secretary-treasurer of the American National CowBelles, serving under our well-loved Mrs. O. W. Lynam. So Maudeane Harper, with her natural gift for organizing, has also the know-how it takes to make a successful administration. As her friends say, "While the average person is getting ready to plan a program, Maudeane has her plans all made, her letters in the mail and is eagerly awaiting replies."



Maudeane Harper

Born and reared in Ashland, a Kansas town of some 1,500 people, Maudeane is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Perry, cattle ranchers of that community for 40 years. She attended the College of Emporia. When in 1941 she married Mell Harper and the young couple made their home on the Harper ranch seven miles south of the small town of Sitka, ranching was nothing new to Maudeane for she had lived on the ranch as well as in town.

Aside from the cattle business and the CowBelles, Mell and Maudeane Harper's interests center around their two children, Jim, who is 12, and eight-year-old Sandra Lynn. In family plans, the children are always taken into consideration and are consulted. They go

to school in a new modern school in Ashland, on the very same site where their mother attended school in a much less modern building when she was a little girl.

Maudeane is a member of the Christian Church, and also a member of Eastern Star. She is a gracious hostess; guests always find a warm welcome in the Harper home and mealtime seems to arrive with little stir but bounteously.

Kansas is proud of her new President, her own Maudeane Harper.

American National CowBelle Chimes

Vol. 4, No. 6

June, 1956

President—Mrs. Fred H. Dressler, Gardnerville, Nev.

Vice-Presidents—Mrs. M. E. Trego, Sutherland, Nebr.; Mrs. L. R. Houck, Gettysburg, S. D.; Mrs. N. H. Deckle, Plaquemine, La.

Secretary-Treasurer—Mrs. Roy Bankofier, Fernley, Nev.

Editor—Mrs. Dorothy McDonald, 7905 Pala St., San Diego 14, Calif.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR COWBELLE PRESIDENT

CowBelles are ringing in Iowa, and we are happy to welcome this new group. During their organization meeting the group spoke on beef at a radio broadcast and the ladies are already busy taking orders for "Beef Cookery." Welcome, and our heartiest congratulations to the CowBelles of Iowa!

Officers of the Iowa CowBelles, elected at the first meeting, are: president, Mrs. Paul M. Wolf, Route 3, Cedar Rapids; vice-president, Mrs. Addis Greiman, Garner; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Leigh Curran, Mason City.

I just returned from a delightful trip, visiting with the CowBelles of Oregon. Mrs. Tom McElroy, president, made a most gracious hostess during the luncheon. From Oregon, I flew to Washington and there, too, under the very able leadership of Mrs. Ray Kinchelo, the CowBelles were graciously entertained.

The groups from these states have many projects for beef promotion; they are making appearances on television, planning booths at fairs, contributing beef to home economics classes; and they each have many more projects.

You should taste the Beef Candy that Oregon is making (it was mentioned in this department a couple of months ago); it is delicious!

My sincere thanks to both Oregon and Washington for entertaining me so royally during my stay there. The new president of the Oregon group is Mrs. Joe Oliver of John Day, and for Washington CowBelles Mrs. John McMinimee is the new president. Congratulations and best wishes to both of them!

Our Beef for Father's Day program will soon be over and Mrs. Jack Wadlow and her committee and all you good



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NU-WAY, Box 552, Sioux City, Iowa

NOT SO BULLY FOR HIM

Just to show that too much of anything can be too much of a good thing, a North Carolina farmer cites his own experiences. In 1946, as part of a 4-H club project, he got a registered Jersey heifer which proved to be a fine milker. Only thing is, he'd like to know how to get her to have a heifer calf—she's produced a bull every year since he got her!

World's Largest Cattle CHAROLAISE and CHARBRAY BULLS, COWS, YOUNG BULLS, YOUNG HEIFERS FOR SALE

These bulls on your native cows will increase the weight of calves at 7 mo. of age from 175-225 lbs. over your present breeding program.

These bulls will give greater dressing percentage; the calves will peak U. S. choice 40 days ahead of anything in the feed pen.

Try one and you will buy all Charolaise.

Buck Buchanan
B BAR RANCH
P. O. Box 1253
Ft. Worth, Tex.

CowBelles have done a grand job; you have reached many new places and made many more people conscious of the value of beef. Let us not stop the good work now that Father's Day is past, but keep right on with beef promotion projects. You will be hearing more from the beef promotion committee.

With county, state and National CowBelles working together on this big program, we have reached a goal which could not have been accomplished without cooperation from all.

With sincere thanks to each and every one and best wishes for a very happy Father's Day.—Mrs. Fred H. Dressler, President.

A REMINDER

Will state officers please be sure to state, when forwarding funds, if they are for state affiliation or represent beef promotion donations? Each is handled separately. Please send affiliation dues, beef promotion donations and National membership dues directly to Mrs. Roy Bankofier, Box 21, Fernley, Nev.—Anna Dressler, President.

HERE AND THERE WITH THE COWBELLES

Weld County (Colo.) CowBelles, organized in February, 1955, entertained at their second annual membership drive dessert luncheon in March. Sixteen new members were added to the group. On Apr. 17 they sponsored a beef cutting and cooking demonstration in Greeley. A capacity audience attended both of the programs. Cuts of beef were presented to winners of a contest in identifying retail cuts. The group again had a booth on teen-age nutrition at the Area Health Days program in May. Between 3,000 and 4,000 people, students and adults, see this program each year, so the CowBelles' program of stressing more beef in teen-age diets received good publicity.

The Southwestern (Colo.) CowBelles held a meeting on May 8 in Cortez, with Mrs. Curtis Honaker as hostess. Report was made on the presentation of awards to the winners of the "Calf to Counter" essay contest. Sale of place mats was reported on, and a report

was made on the Western Colorado CowBelle Council meeting in Montrose on May 2.

Okanogan County (Wash.) CowBelles met at a luncheon in Riverside on May 12. It was decided the CowBelles will award a leather prize to each boy and girl with high points in the junior exhibition division. A copy of "Beef Cookery" will be given for the best canned beef in the adult and junior division, at the county fair next fall. Plans were made for the annual Cattleman-CowBelle picnic which will be held at Salmon Meadows in July. Mrs. Roland Sackman, newly-elected president, named her committees and each group met before the luncheon.

The Kannah Creek (Colo.) CowBelles met at the home of Mrs. Ann Hallenbeck in Whitewater on May 1. Mrs. Mary Wadlow gave an interesting report on her trip to the National Beef Council meeting in Kansas City. Report was given on the air tour held at Walker Field in Grand Junction in late April. Mrs. Claybaugh reported on beef promotion and named her committee to help with this project. It was voted to have a bake sale, time and place to be announced later.

The Clark County (Kan.) CowBelles entertained all CowBelles attending the district meeting in Ashland May 25. After luncheon the CowBelles had their meeting and a very interesting program. The winner of the slogan contest, "Why Eat Beef for Father's Day" was announced. (Sorry we do not have her name.—ED.) After the men's afternoon beef tour, both groups met in the evening for a banquet and a short program.

Will you receive a copy of the 1956 Year Book? Yes, if you have paid National CowBelle dues for this year . . . that's our mailing list.

BEEF PROMOTION: NEBRASKA CowBelles published a newspaper article on "Beef as a Reducer, Health aid," which received wide circulation through the A. & P. and newspapers throughout the East and South. Inquiries regarding it have come in from 10 states, along

with requests for the National cookbook, "Beef Cookery," which was featured as a recipe source for high-protein, low-calorie meals. In late April, Lincoln, the Nebraska state capitol, had a beef campaign, the Chamber of Commerce cooperating with the Nebraska CowBelles. They sponsored a menu-planning contest built around beef, and many other beef-promotion projects. The CowBelles were on hand to tell the story of beef and to sell "Beef Cookery" at some of the leading stores in Lincoln.

NORTH DAKOTA CowBelles also did some publishing this spring—first with a card "Beef is Good Medicine" for use in the state schools—just a special lesson on the many and varied products of the beef animal. It is a very interesting and instructive piece of literature. The North Dakota Belles are also introducing very soon a new and bigger version of their "Beefing" booklet, which is intended for the tourist trade. In its present form, this has proven to be a very interesting pamphlet, as those who saw it at the National conventions will recall.



Mrs. Wadlow

The important project, "BEEF for Father's Day," started just 16 months ago, has seen great success, under the capable hands of Mrs. Leavitt Booth, Arvada, Colo., first chairman of the campaign, and Mrs. Jack T. Wadlow, Whitewater, Colo., who is directing this special promotion for 1956.

With the effective help of CowBelles all over the nation, Mrs. Wadlow has conducted a campaign, the scope and importance of which can be gathered from this brief review of a report recently given by Mrs. Wadlow in Kansas City.

More than 15,000 CowBelles and other ranchwomen in more than 30 states and many beef organizations and allied industries are cooperating.

The idea originated with an auxiliary of the Colorado Cattlemen's Association, and rapidly mushrooming into a national program, its accomplishments, based on last year's campaign, will shape up like this:

Twenty governors and hundreds of mayors and county officials proclaimed BEEF as the traditional Father's Day dish with resultant wide publicity;

Food editors used recipes and cooking suggestions of beef dishes; many restaurants featured CowBelle recipes; recipes were distributed through local cooking schools, demonstrations at markets and by cards and folders at meat counters.

Thousands of newspapers, radio and TV stations and magazines used stories on the campaign.

THE KANSAS TRIO

The popular Kansas CowBelle trio at one of their many performances. (L. to r.) Mrs. Walter Broadie, Mrs. Paul Randall, Mrs. Lowell Randall and Mrs. Dell Randall.



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Father's Day

Three hundred thousand of the small red and white "BEEF for Father's Day" stickers were used all over the country—by merchants, school children, restaurants, meat cutters, periodicals, banks.

Twenty thousand automobiles used the window stickers with "BEEF for Father's Day" slogans.

Hundreds of fathers of babies born on Father's Day got everything from a steak dinner to a year's supply of beef and numerous leather goods. CowBelles made presentations literally in the waiting rooms of the hospitals.

The campaign was highlighted by President Eisenhower's acceptance of 12 prime beef steaks and his approval of the idea of "BEEF for Father's Day."



Mrs. Word

A little white house amid towering century-old elms in a valley flanked by flatland plateaus and opening into the South Canadian River is the home of Mrs. C. V. Word, second president and charter organizer of the Oklahoma CowBelles. The house itself tells a lot of the story of Mrs.

Word—Mildred to all who know her. This is the house she visited as a young girl growing up in the nearby town of Arnett, Okla. It had a modest beginning as the two-room original ranch house back in the 1890's. Both of the folks grew up in the Arnett community but spent most of the first 20 years of their married life following the somewhat nomadic career of an Oklahoma highway engineer. With their two children nearly grown, they returned to the home place to assume full ownership and operation.

Frankly, Mother was just a little dubious as to how she would take to rural living, but she set out with her usual energy to make things over to her liking. Naturally, she started with

the house with its colorful history marred by inconvenience. No amount of sentiment could convince Mom that the hand pump in the kitchen should be preserved for posterity—and the kitchen itself was too small. One evening Dad returned to find Mom with hammer and crowbar in hand standing in the debris of a one-time partition between it and a small bedroom.

During the war materials and labor were hard to come by, but in much the same manner the whole house got a face lifting. Now, sitting in the large knotty pine-panelled livingroom before the oversize fireplace, you can reminisce on its early history in modern comfort.

But this is the story of the woman, not the house. When Mom got settled to country living, the roots went deep. She "promoted" herself a child's saddle (she is a mite, 4'10" in height) and joined dad in some of the lighter ranch duties. The folks are active in the Farm Bureau and Soil Conservation work, and are strong supporters of the Northwest Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association with its local CowBelle group. Each completed a term as president of the respective groups.

Mom never was a stay-at-home. When civic duties and a little gadding can be combined, Mom always has the time. It has been said among her friends, if there is money to be raised, "let Mildred do it." She is a past president of the local Federated Women's Club, is active in the Oklahoma Historical Society and always has a Sunday School class—mostly the high school age group.

If she has a hobby, it is probably the community's young people, who have made the ranch's tree-lined creek a popular picnic spot. If additional provisions or ready saddle stock are needed, the kids know where to find them. Even Mom was a little surprised one Sunday eve to find that a carload of high school boys had dropped by in their absence and raided the refrigerator of its cold chicken and potato salad. The only reference ever made to the "visit" was the broad wink Mom got the next time she saw the boys in town.

That's Mrs. C. V. Word as I see her. She thinks of herself as being shy; as you can see, she likes folks too well to prove it.

—Mrs. Lola (Word) McCorkle



Mrs. Rose

ururer, and Mrs. Orris Albertson, Bruno,

Mrs. Russell Rose, Pueblo, Colo., was elected president of the Colorado CowBelles at a meeting in Colorado Springs in late May, succeeding Mrs. Bob Burghart, Colorado Springs. Other CCA auxiliary officers include Mrs. O. E. Mock, Maybelle, vice-president; Mrs. J. T. Wadlow, Whitewater, treasurer, and Mrs. Orris Albertson, Bruno,

secretary.

The CowBelles voted to set up an essay contest for seventh and eighth grade pupils on the topic, "The History of Beef from Calf to Counter," on a state-wide basis. The project was previously sponsored by western and eastern Colorado CowBelle groups.

LEATHER IN THE NEWS

Sears Roebuck house organs are featuring a shopper's guide that spotlights all-leather construction as the most important feature of good shoe value . . . and the same story appears in other house organs.

* * *

Mobilife, published by the industrial relations department of the Socony Mobil Oil Co., in a story on winter foot care, quotes an eminent health authority as saying that "When protective winter footwear is called for, wear a leather boot with real wool shearling inside. Both the leather and wool allow air to enter and moisture to evaporate."

* * *

A similar story appeared in the organ of Fairbanks-Morse Co., manufacturers of heavy electrical, motor and other equipment. The story warned workers to be sure "to wear sturdy shoes with leather uppers and soles, since leather permits the free circulation of air around the feet, which acts as insulation, keeping body warmth in and cold out."

* * *

Full-page picture and story layout in Co-Ed, a publication distributed in high schools throughout the country, stresses importance of all-leather shoes for teenagers. It says in part: "Ideal are sturdy, all-leather flats or walking shoes . . . Leather soles that bend freely give best support."

Another story, syndicated in several hundred newspapers, points out that "East and West meet at the leather-shod feet of American Youngsters this spring in touches of the Orient and the European continent . . . New leathers, both in uppers and soles, are light and airy for warm weather ease."

* * *

An illustrated feature published nationwide urges leather soles and low or medium heels as an important safety feature for women driving cars. According to the article, "The experts put thumbs down on rubber soles and crepe soles," and recommend leather for a firm footing under all driving conditions.

* * *

HOG NUMBERS UP

The number of hogs in the more important countries of the world in 1955 increased about 1 per cent over 1954 to an all-time high of 373 million head. This is 27 per cent above pre-war and 52 per cent above the low level of 1946-50, according to latest figures of the Foreign Agricultural Service.

THEY REMEMBER!

Man's memory is astounding, as evidenced in the case of the Chicago Stock Yards' search for oldtime livestock farmers and others they seek to honor in connection with the market's 90th anniversary celebration. The oldest active livestock farmers, buyers, salesmen and others (in terms of years of service) will be honored at an awards banquet in the Saddle and Sirloin Club at the stock yards on June 14.

The awards eligibility committee, because many records had been destroyed in the fire of 1934, sent out the word in its search for eligible candidates. (See May Producer.) Results were overwhelming; the memory of oldtimers was amazing, and the facts disclosed were fascinating. Old-time farmers in Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Wisconsin and other Corn Belt states came through with tales of livestock shipments before the turn of the century and many of them backed up their stories with records of sales which time had aged but not effaced.

For instance, an Iowan wrote that a friend of his "had a load of steers on the Chicago market in 1896, the day following the election of President McKinley. A newspaper article on that day called attention to the fact that they topped the market and confidence had been restored in the trade."

Another oldtime but still active livestock farmer tapped his memory to say: "I think around October in 1898, I topped the market for the week at \$5.55 per cwt." (Currently Chicago's top cattle prices have ranged between \$26 and \$27 per cwt.) He sent in a sales slip on 18 head of cattle sold on Mar. 11, 1897, 15 steers averaging \$4.50 per cwt., and three cows at \$2.35 per cwt.

"In 1891," writes another, "I made my first trip to Chicago with a shipment of cattle sent by my father. Since

then, I have made one or more trips with shipments of stock every year. I was put in charge of feeding operations for my father in the year 1906. I have a clipping of news of 50 years ago where I received top price of \$6.40 for 49 fancy Shorthorns."

The top guest of honor at the awards banquet will be the oldest active shipper to be selected from among livestock farmers who have shipped animals to the Chicago market for 50 years or more. Each will receive an appropriate trophy in recognition of his contribution to the record of the Chicago Stock Yards.

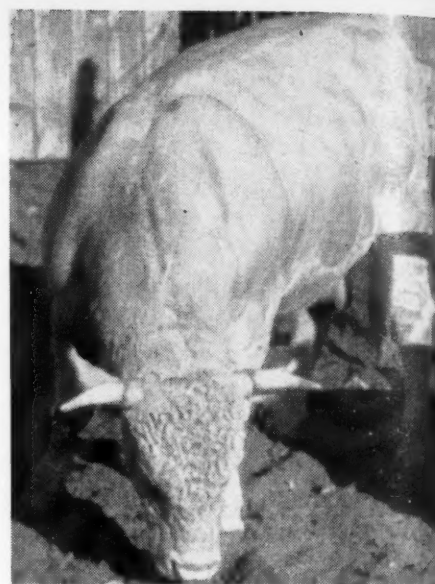
The affair is being sponsored by the Stock Yards Club of Chicago which represents a complete cross-section of the market—commission firms, livestock buyers, banks, packers and the Chicago Union Stock Yards.

ANGUS TRANSACTION

The Angus Valley Farms at Tulsa, Okla. have been sold to a group of Tulsa businessmen who also own Sieteco Angus Farm at Broken Arrow. This is reportedly one of the largest individual sales in the history of beef cattle farming in America. Seller of the property, which included more than 1,000 acres of land and 600 registered animals and farm equipment, is Jay P. Walker who established the breeding herd in 1940. The new owners are John H., Charles P. and David R. Williams, Robert L. Buck, B. E. Barnes, Wilbur J. Holleman and Rowland D. Stanfield, Sieteco farm manager.

K.C. SETS SHOW PLANS

The 1956 American Royal Livestock and Horse Show at Kansas City, Mo. will be held Oct. 20-28 this year. Highlight of the event will be the auction sale of reserve and grand champion



Buck Buchanan of the B Bar Ranch, Ft. Worth, Tex., owns this purebred Charollaise bull which at 17 months weighed 2,134 pounds.

steers and the FFA and 4-H open class fat steers on Oct. 24. Carlot fat and feeder cattle will sell on the 25th. Last year, 4,088 head of livestock were shown.

TRIPLE U AVERAGE \$401

Ninety-four lots offered in the Triple U Hereford sale at Gettysburg, S. D. last month brought an average of \$401, totaling \$37,745. The 75 bulls figured \$422; 19 females averaged \$319. The top bull sold for \$1,270 and the two top females went at \$600 each.

HEREFORDS WIN IN WASH.

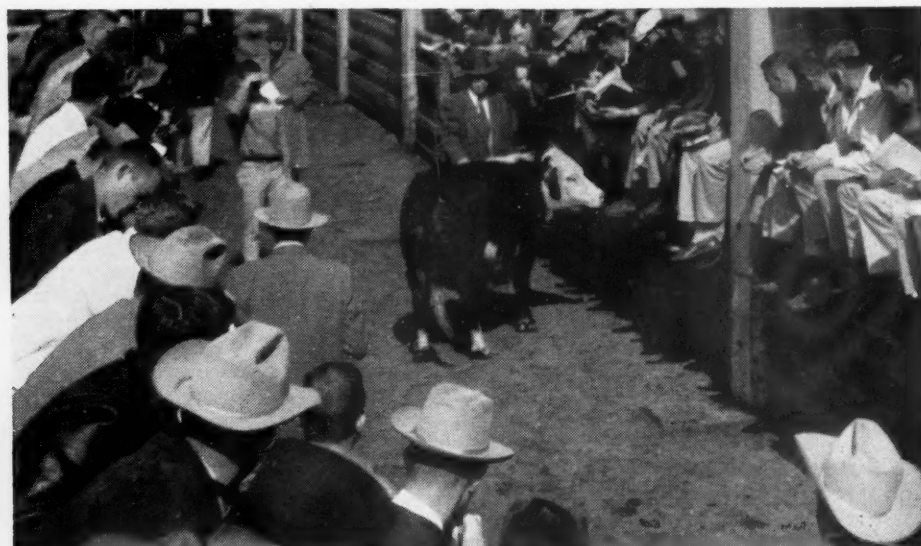
A pair of Hereford steers were named grand champions over 11 breeds in their divisions at the seventh annual Central Washington Junior Livestock Show. Grand champion of the 4-H division was a 1,075-pounder shown by Bob Penney of Naches, Wash. In the FFA division, Lyle Russell, Grandview, Wash. showed his 1,089-pound Hereford to the top award in competition with 93 other steers.

BONES AVERAGE \$788

Despite snow and freezing weather, enthusiastic Hereford breeders attending the Bones Hereford Ranch sale at Parker, S. D. last month paid an average of \$788 for 50½ head offered, with 37½ bulls averaging \$918 and 13 females \$413. Total returns of the sale came to \$39,790. Top bull brought \$3,300; top female, \$670. Buyers came from seven states and two Canadian provinces.

CHAROLLAISE SALE RESET

The Texas Charollaise and Charollaise-Cross consignment sale originally scheduled for the Bexar County Coliseum in San Antonio, has been relocated; it will be held May 28 at



Ninety-nine husbandry students from 11 agricultural colleges estimated weight, yield and grade during a cattle evaluation session at the National Live Stock and Meat Board's second annual undergraduate clinic in Omaha. Cooperating in the event were the Cudahy Packing Co., the Union Stock Yards Co. of Omaha and the Omaha Livestock Exchange to give the students an insight into processing and marketing techniques as well. Included in the clinic were lectures on retailing, the role of the restaurateur in meat and federal grading.

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the Green Valley Stockyards, San Marcos, Tex. Twenty-one bulls and 40 females of varying blood percentages from $\frac{3}{4}$ to purebred will be offered at auction; also included will be 25 pen lots of 110 head at private treaty; these will be on display May 27 and 28. Sale catalogs are available from the Texas Charollaise & Charollaise-Cross Sales Corp., 1210 Majestic Bldg., San Antonio, Tex.

CHICAGO SLATES FALL SALES

The Chicago Stock Yards will next fall feature four big events highlighting cattle from the range country. The annual October feeder cattle show and sale is expected to attract more than 10,000 head; the 12th annual renewal of this event is scheduled for Oct. 25-26. Other sales are set for Sept. 13, Sept. 27 and Oct. 11. Calves, yearlings and two-year-olds will be sold.

ANGUS ASSN. MOVES

The offices of the American Aberdeen-Angus Breeders Association move this month to their new office building at 3201 Frederick Blvd., St. Joseph, Mo. The new permanent headquarters of the breed organization was recently completed and will be occupied on June 20.

ANGUS CONFERENCE HELD

The second annual Aberdeen-Angus Conference at Knoxville, Tenn., Apr. 30-May 1, drew cattlemen from 29 states for a discussion of cowmen's problems

AHA HONORS JUNIOR BREEDER



Paul Swaffar, secretary of the American Hereford Association, is shown above presenting the association's Junior Membership No. 1 to 17-year-old Shirley Ann McIntyre of Howard, Kans. The presentation marked the inauguration of the association's new junior membership program to assist junior feeders in heifer and steer projects. (Photo by American Hereford Assn.)

BULLS

FOR SALE AT PRIVATE TREATY

FRANKLIN HEREFORDS

A reliable source of practical, dependable registered Hereford breeding stock. Yearling bulls for sale now.

B. P. Franklin
Meeker, Colo.

WE HAVE: a pair of 2-year-old bulls, an entire set of yearlings, and females, open and bred, for sale. See us and them.

F. E. MESSERSMITH & SONS, Alliance, Nebr.

"Our Herefords build the beef where the highest priced cuts of meat grow."

CHANDLER HEREFORDS

Range Bulls of Uniform Quality in Carload Lots

Herbert Chandler

Baker, Oregon

in such fields as selection of correct type cattle, carcass improvements, feeding practices and dwarfism. Some 300 breeders checked in for the meetings. The 1957 conference will be held May 5-7 at Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich.

CHICAGO SHOW CHANGE MADE

Directors of the International Live Stock Exposition at Chicago have approved stepped-up emphasis on carcass contests in the 1956 show. There

will be separate classes for each of the three beef breeds; a champion carcass will be selected in each breed and a grand champion carcass over all breeds. Exposition officials state premiums in the cattle carcass classes will compare closely with awards offered in the long established live steer competitions. An additional \$100 cash prize will be offered on each breed and \$100 for the grand champion. Complete prize list of the show will total more than \$100,000.

The Red Angus Story

By Joseph P. Givhan

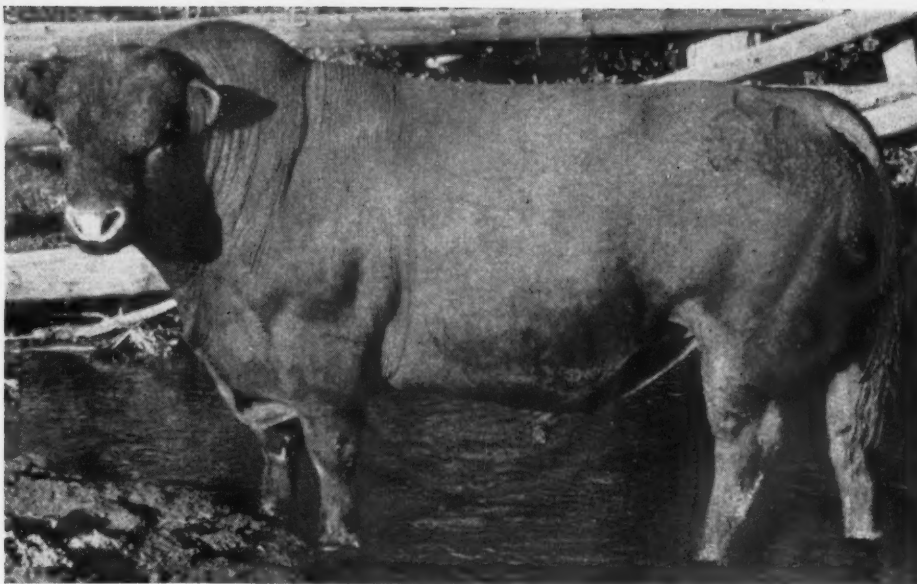
LIKE MOST of the modern American beef breeds, the Red Angus had its beginning in the British Isles, and the origin of the red type goes back to the eighth century.

According to some authorities, hardy Norsemen raiding the coasts of England and Scotland brought with them some small, dun-colored, hornless cattle. In time, these cattle, interbreeding with the black native Celtic cattle of inland Scotland, which had upright horns, produced a naturally polled black breed which roughly corresponded to the black Aberdeen-Angus of today, though a considerably smaller-bodied animal. The polled characteristic was very slow to permeate inland and for almost 1,000 years was confined principally to the coastal areas of England and Scotland.

An explanation for the introduction of the red coloration in the Angus breed is offered by an English breeder of Red

Angus: He traces it to the spread of the Norfolk system of husbandry to Scotland in the 18th century. The black Scottish cattle were too light to provide sufficiently large draught oxen. Accordingly, larger English longhorns, predominantly red in color, were brought in and crossed with the black native polled breed.

The resultant offspring were all black polled animals, since black is a dominant color and red a recessive one. All, however, carried the red gene, and subsequent interbreeding produced an average of one red calf in four, in accordance with Mendel's laws of heredity. (Undoubtedly the crossbreeding increased the number of animals carrying the red gene in the breed, thereby heightening the chances of the purebred blacks' producing red calves. Red calves occur only when both parents are red; when one parent is red and the



One of the senior herd bulls and a foundation sire of the breed at Beckton Stock Farm, Sheridan, Wyo., raised from their herd of registered Red Angus. He was born March 1948 and photographed after three months in pasture with 50 cows in August 1954 as a six-year-old. He was never fitted or grain-fed nor on a nurse cow or creep-fed as a calf. The dam was a registered black Angus.

other is black, carrying the red gene, or when both parents are black, but each carrying the red gene. Thus, chances are one in four for production of a red calf when two blacks carrying red genes are mated.)

Early in the development of the Aberdeen-Angus, a Scotsman arbitrarily decided that black was the proper color for the breed and thereby started a fashion. A University of Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station pamphlet published—in 1920—three decades before establishment of the Red Angus Association of America on "The Occurrence of Red Calves in Black Breeds of Cattle" emphasized that the red individual appearing in Angus stock are just as truly "purebred" as are their black relatives; and, to quote from it: "Had red been the chosen color, there would never have been any trouble with the appearance of blacks as off-color individuals, since red to red breeds true."

The first Aberdeen-Angus herdbook, published in 1862 in Scotland, entered both reds and blacks without distinction, and this practice is continued in England and Scotland today.

The Angus was introduced into America in the 1870's. The first two American herdbooks, in 1886 and 1888, did not record color of individual animals. In 1890, 22 reds were registered among some 2,700 individuals entered that year. Finally the reds and other colors were barred altogether from registration after 1917. Following the marked decline in number of red calves dropped in American herds as a result of this ruling, it is estimated that at present only one out of every 500 Angus calves dropped is red.

In the interim, the breed has continued to flourish in Argentina from a foundation herd imported earlier in the century from Britain. In South Amer-

ican countries, most of these animals are red.

In 1954 the first cattlemen interested in the reds started selecting and breeding those dropped in good American Angus herds. By 1954 a sufficient number of herds had been established to form a breed organization, The Red Angus Association of America, with temporary headquarters in Sheridan, Wyo.

The Red Angus are a "ready-made" and established breed of cattle. Inherently they are the same in size and characteristics as the Black Angus, and they hold the recessive red color, which means that when crossed with other basically red breeds or bred to other Red Angus they always produce reds.

Red Angus breeders state the animals are less affected by pink eye and insects than some of the other breeds, and they cite as other natural assets the carcass quality, absence of sore eye and sunburned udders; also, the polled characteristic, solid color and general vigor, easier calving because of comparatively smaller calves at birth, milking ability of cows and early maturing characteristics are other advantages claimed. The future of the breed as a beef animal, say enthusiasts, is unlimited, provided it is properly handled and managed.

MAYBE PRICES STOP THEM!

There is reportedly as much or more profit in serving fish as in steak, beef and pork roasts, according to a Fish & Wildlife Service survey among restaurateurs. In higher-volume eating places (\$100,000 or more a year) 60 per cent of the operators said fish was more profitable.

Money causes a lot of trouble in this world, but many people are looking for trouble anyway.

STATE BRIEFS

The Kansas legislative council, an interim study agency, authorized its agriculture committee to draft a bill to set up county-wide cattle brand inspection areas on a local option basis. "A county," the committee said, "would be eligible for qualification . . . if it adjoins another state or if it adjoins a county in Kansas qualified as a brand inspection area. These restrictions would prevent 'checkerboarding' or scattered inspection areas." In the proposal, 20 per cent of producers could petition for the area. If another 20 per cent opposed, an election would be held.

A proposal for legislation for mandatory inspection of independent meat packers was rejected by the Oklahoma legislative council's agriculture committee. Such legislation was backed by the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association and the Oklahoma Association of Independent Meat Packers.

Bills in Louisiana include a measure to require the state highway department at state expense to fence highways covered by the 1954 state livestock fencing law; also to appropriate \$1,250,000 to continue brucellosis indemnity pay.

South Dakota's brand board says all cattle brand transfers will be treated as new applications, to stop conflict.

WATER NEWS

ARIZONA: First step—a report on hiring of engineers for a survey—for the proposed central Arizona project have been taken by the Arizona Interstate Stream Commission.

CALIFORNIA: A California water plan to cost \$11.3 billion has been made public by state engineers. They recommended that the legislature implement the plan and that "assurances should be provided" to straighten out the state's water law so all areas will get sufficient water for future uses. The plan is the first comprehensive survey of all the water and power potential utilizable for ultimate development. It estimates an eventual state population of 40 million.

COLORADO: Denver water board officials will open bids July 1 on the \$36.6 million Roberts Tunnel. The 23-mile tunnel will be driven under the Continental Divide to bring Blue River water from near Dillon to the eastern slope.

LOUISIANA: Despite the fact that Louisiana is blessed with a water supply "adequate for much development," it may become necessary to control use of water through legislation in the future, the state department of public works predicted in a report to the legislature. The report showed almost a doubling of municipal, industrial, rural and irrigation use.

WYOMING: No need for immediate regulations on underground water has been found by the Wyoming state legislative interim committee, according to its executive secretary.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

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Personal Mention

Edward Foss Wilson, since 1926 a member of the family packing firm, has asked not to be re-elected chairman of the board of Wilson & Co. From 1934 until 1953 he had served as president, then succeeding his father, Thomas E. Wilson, in the chairmanship.

L. M. Pexton, head of the Denver Union Stockyard Company, was unanimously named to the presidency of the National Western Stock Show last month. He succeeds the late Wilson McCarthy. Albert K. Mitchell of Albert, N.M., a former president of the American National, was named first vice-president and Willard Simms of Denver remains as general manager. The show will be held Jan. 11-19 in 1957.

A veteran cattle buyer at the Omaha Stockyards, **John Kubat**, retired Apr. 30 after 48 years on the job. Mr. Kubat joined the Armour & Company staff in 1908 as a messenger in the cattle buying department; in 1911 he became a buyer, serving in that capacity on the Omaha market for the 45 years since.

Dewey Schaffer, former president of the Nebraska Stock Growers Association, recently branched out in his sphere of activities; he has been elected mayor of O'Neill, Nebr., where he resides.

Dr. A. Dewey Bond has been placed in charge of the Washington office of the American Meat Institute, in the National Press Building. A native of Chesterland, O., Mr. Bond is a specialist in agriculture economics, with degrees from Ohio State, Cornell and Michigan State universities.

A. R. Babcock, Moore, Ida., American National vice-president, is recovering nicely after a fall and serious surgery.

Prof. C. W. Hickman: The long-time head of the animal husbandry department at the University of Idaho died suddenly early last month at 68. Services were held at Moscow, Ida.



Mr. Hickman was recognized as one of the West's livestock experts and a top authority on beef cattle and sheep. He had served more than 41 years as a member of the university's animal husbandry department heading the department from 1918 to 1951, when he was designated head emeritus and continued as a professor. Mr. Hickman was the first president of the western section of the American Society of Animal Production, and he was widely known as a livestock judge.

FAVOR GOVT. GRADING

A majority of food chain companies prefer to buy and sell fresh beef on the basis of USDA grades, according to the National Association of Food Chains. A survey of buying habits (totals add to more than 100 because some companies use more than one system) showed 81 per cent using government grades; 33 per cent packer grades. In selling, 72 per cent used government grades, 22 per cent packer grades, and 26 per cent private label.

When asked to indicate a choice of grading system for buying and selling, 58 companies reported: System preferred in buying beef — government grades 72 per cent; packer grades 12; government and packer 16; none of these systems 2.

UP OFFERS BOOKLET

A revised edition of "Livestock," a booklet issued by the agricultural development of Union Pacific Railroad, is available to farmers and ranchers in the West. The booklet covers beef cattle, sheep, swine, livestock shipping and loss prevention subjects. Special sections deal with herd management, feeding, production, housing and diseases under the major livestock divisions. Copies are obtainable from Department of Agricultural Development, Union Pacific Railroad, Room 313, 1416 Dodge St., Omaha 2, Nebr.



best spring in many years. If it keeps up there will be a wonderful grass crop.—**Raymor Combs**, Converse County, Wyo.

VERY DRY—Still very dry for eastern Iowa. Corn is too high to feed and feeders are not feeling too good about the cattle market for fed cattle.—**Anders V. Mather, Sr.**, Muscatine County, Ia.

WISH FOR BRIGHTER DAY—My time must be out—four years drouth; my boys drafted away; things I sell in a big surplus worth nothing, and things I buy much higher (but not your paper, of course.) One article I paid 15 cents for 20 years ago now costs me \$1.75. At one time I was worth \$150,000 . . . today I am broke. Can you figure it out?—and living, or supposed to be living, in the best land in the world. They say slavery was bad, but the boss had to be there to whip you at least. Now you build the land up, make it more productive and valuable and they make you lose it. The only thing I can say and be thankful for is I spent lots of money for new schools, churches, hospitals, old folks' home, roads, and never spent any for tobacco or drink. Maybe I can get a reward some place else!—**D. J. Klehbiel**, Reno County, Kan.



The corn that bought a round-trip ticket to Europe

In '41 a trip to Europe looked remote to the Clarkes. But a certain part of each corn crop went into Series "E" Savings Bonds. Years passed . . . the Bonds grew . . . and now the Clarkes are in Europe on a well-earned and long dreamed of vacation.

Why don't you fulfill *your* dreams through the Savings Bond habit? Three dollars invested today in Series "E" Savings Bonds grow to four in nine years and eight months! What's more, Savings Bonds, easily converted into cash, are actually *safer* than cash. They are registered in your name and may be replaced if lost, burned or stolen.

When you buy Savings Bonds at your bank, you invest in your own and your country's future!

The crop that never fails

U.S. Savings Bonds

The U.S. Government does not pay for this advertising. The Treasury Department thanks, for their patriotic donations, the Advertising Council and

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June 14-16—9th annual convention, American National Livestock Auction Association, Denver, Colo.
 June 14-16—Nebraska Stock Growers Assn. convention, North Platte.
 June 25-27—National Livestock Brand Conference, Rapid City, S. D.
 July 24-28—60th Cheyenne Frontier Days, Cheyenne, Wyo.
 Sept. 28-Oct. 2—50th annual meeting, American Meat Institute, Chicago, Ill.
 Oct. 20-28—American Royal Live Stock & Horse Show, Kansas City, Mo.
 Dec. 7-8—Utah Cattlemen's convention, Salt Lake City, Utah.
 Jan. 7-9, 1957—60th annual convention, AMERICAN NATIONAL CATTLEMEN'S ASSN., Phoenix, Ariz.
 Jan. 11-19—National Western Stock Show, Denver, Colo.
 Jan. 25-Feb. 3—Southwestern Exposition & Fat Stock Show, Ft. Worth, Tex.

CHICAGO LIVESTOCK PRICES

	May 24, 1956	May 24, 1955
Steers, Prime	\$22.00 - 24.50	\$24.00 - 26.00
Steers, Choice	19.75 - 22.25	21.50 - 24.50
Steers, Good	17.90 - 20.00	18.50 - 21.75
Cows, Comm.	12.75 - 14.00	13.25 - 14.50
Vealers, Ch.-Pr.	23.00 - 26.00	24.00 - 26.00
Vealers, Cm.-Gd.	16.00 - 23.00	16.00 - 24.00
Calves, Ch.-Pr.	18.00 - 22.00	19.00 - 23.00
Calves, Cm.-Gd.	14.00 - 18.00	14.00 - 19.00
F. & S. Strs., Gd.-Ch.	16.75 - 21.50	18.50 - 24.00
F. & S. Strs., Cm.-Md.	12.50 - 16.75	13.50 - 19.00
Hogs (180-240#)	17.25 - 18.50	17.25 - 19.00
Lambs, Gd.-Ch.	25.50 - 27.00	17.75 - 19.00
Ewes, Gd. Ch.	4.50 - 5.50	5.25 - 6.25

WHOLESALE DRESSED MEATS

	May 24, 1956	May 24, 1955
Beef, Prime	\$35.00 - 37.00	\$41.00 - 44.50
Beef, Choice	31.50 - 35.00	37.00 - 39.00
Beef, Good	30.00 - 33.00	35.00 - 36.00
Beef, Comm.	27.50 - 30.00	31.50 - 33.00
Veal, Prime	41.00 - 43.00	42.00 - 44.00
Veal, Choice	36.00 - 38.00	35.00 - 40.00
Veal, Good	31.00 - 36.00	32.00 - 38.00
Lamb, Choice	47.00 - 50.00	34.00 - 41.00
Lamb, Good	42.00 - 45.00	32.00 - 37.00
Pork Loin, 8-12#	50.00 - 52.50	50.00 - 52.00

COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS

	Apr. 1956	Mar. 1956	Apr. 1955	5-yr. Avg.
Frozen Beef	161,736	178,672	123,491	159,487
Cured Beef	9,465	9,776	8,416	10,084
Total Pork	508,807	514,124	539,434	595,323
Lamb, Mutton	8,847	9,875	9,677	10,914
All Other Meat	175,288	176,673	150,333	151,018

FEDERALLY INSP. SLAUGHTER

	Cattle	Calves	Hogs	Sheep
April 1956	1,545	604	5,252	1,129
April 1955	1,452	596	4,472	1,180
4 mos. '56	6,291	2,438	24,206	4,837
4 mos. '55	5,810	2,336	20,120	4,727

COVER PICTURE

This is a scene near Clyde Park, Mont., north of Livingston. Photographer is William C. Mueller, Denver.

TOUR OF RUSSIA

Ranchers from all parts of the nation will be included among the Americans taking the "Harvest Tour of Russia" this fall under the direction of Everett Mitchell, director of the "National Farm and Home Hour" of the National Broadcasting Co., Chicago. The tour will last 28 days, with departure date set at Aug. 9, and will cover crop and livestock areas of Russia and Ukraine.

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Horses

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Pigeons

American Pigeon Journal (Squab fancy), \$2.

Poultry

Cackle & Crow, \$1; Florida Poultry & Farm Journal, M., \$1.

Rabbits

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RIMROCK RANCH

SHOW RANCH OF
CENTRAL BRITISH COLUMBIA
FOR SALE

Owner—RICH HOBSON, author of GRASS BEYOND THE MOUNTAINS and NOTHING TOO GOOD FOR A COWBOY, published this fall by J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia, Pa.

Rimrock Ranch, located 2 miles off main graveled highway, 32 miles from Vanderhoof on the Canadian National Railroad, is unique. It occupies one entire fertile valley whose 1000-foot slopes afford a drift fence on two sides and spectacular scenery. Rimrock has been kept as a game sanctuary for 12 years and abounds with ducks, geese on its 160-acre lake, deer, moose and bear. Herds of game can be seen from the ranch buildings on the valley floor.

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All necessary ranch buildings plus an owner's house and guest cabins suitable for extensive entertaining.

TOTAL TAXES—\$200 a year. No grazing or lease fees—no irrigation necessary.

Rimrock is a 250-cow spread but could be greatly enlarged with further development.

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Government-maintained landing field at Vanderhoof.

For further information write

RICH HOBSON,

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Vanderhoof, B. C., Canada

Or wire or phone Norman Kerr, Vanderhoof

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